

Andover Town Council

To **approve** the Polling Review Working Group's comments for forwarding to TVBC.

Item No.

27

Produced for: Full Council | **By:** Deputy Town Clerk. | **Date of Report:** 15 Nov 2023

Background:

Test Valley Borough Council is carrying out a review of polling districts and polling stations where voters cast their votes at elections. As part of the review, the Council is consulting residents, elected councillors, political parties, parish councils, groups representing disabled people and other interested groups to seek their views.

The formal Notice of Review, the Terms of Reference, the timetable for the review, and the Submission of the (Acting) Returning Officer to the Review, together with maps showing the geographical layout of polling districts, are available on the Council's website at www.testvalley.gov.uk/pdr.

The consultation period runs from 13 October 2023 to 24 November 2023.

Please note that comments on the boundaries of the Borough Council, parish councils, Borough Ward and County Electoral Division boundaries, and other electoral arrangements such as the number of councillors for a particular parish/ward/division, are outside the scope of this Review and cannot be considered under it.

Background:

A Council is required to divide its area into "polling districts". In general, the polling district will be the same area as the parish it is situated within, but in Andover and Romsey (which has Borough wards) and some other areas further sub-division is required, to ensure that the number of electors in each polling district is not excessive, and that polling stations are as convenient as possible for voters.

Within each polling district, a "polling place" must be designated. The polling station serving the polling district must be situated within this polling place. Polling places must be within the polling district, although they can be outside the relevant polling district if no suitable alternative premises are available.

As part of the review, the suitability of polling stations used at elections is assessed, and the review allows possible alternative polling stations to be considered and assessed.

Timetable

The outcome of the review will be reported to Test Valley Borough Council full Council on 17 January 2024, and implemented by a formal Order made by the Council. The electoral register due to be published on 1 February 2024 will be based on the new arrangements, which will then apply to any elections which take place after that date.

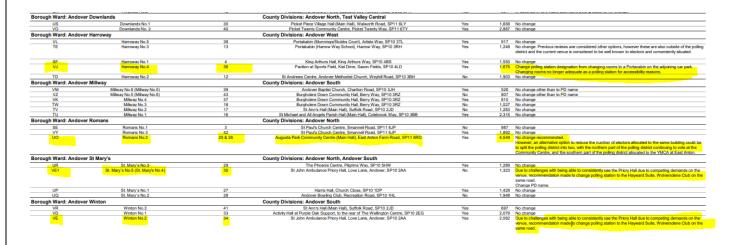
On Monday 30th November a Working Group met to discuss the above consultation and consider Andover Town Council's response to it.

Results:

The Working Group considered that, although there is only one confirmed change in the Polling stations within the Parish (Andover Harroway No 4 VJ), they would also like to recommend to Full Council for approval that the alternatives suggested and mentioned below, be recommended for adoption, specifically Roman's Number 2 UO. There are by far the most voters attending this station at 4,549 so the recommendation to split North and South and use the YMCA would beneficial to the area.

It was also suggested that Andover Town Council request that Test Valley Borough Council consider using the Longmeadow Hall in Cricketer's Way again to stop voters having to cross the busy Smanell Road for Romans no 1 SE.

Please note that responses are required by 24 November 2023.



Recommendations:

• Full Council approve the Working Group's recommendations and task Officers to respond to the consultation by 24 November 2023 with the Working Group's comments above.