

## SOUTH HOLLAND DISTRICT COUNCIL

**Report of:** Democratic Services and Legal Manager

**To:** Council – 19 November 2014

**Author:** Rhonda Oldfield, Democratic and Electoral Services Team Leader

**Subject:** Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places 2014

**Purpose:** To agree the recommendations following the review of Polling Districts and Polling Places within the South Holland area.

### **Recommendation:**

That the Polling Districts and Polling Places within the South Holland as at Appendix A be approved.

### **1.0 BACKGROUND**

- 1.1 Section 16 of the Electoral Administration Act 2006 introduced a requirement for local authorities to undertake a review of their Parliamentary polling districts and polling places every 4 years. The last review of the South Holland area was completed in the autumn of 2011. Subsequent amendments to this legislation by the Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013 now mean that all local authorities must undertake a review of all polling districts and polling places by 31 January 2015. Subsequent reviews must then take place every five years.
- 1.2 A review of the polling districts and polling places used for elections within the South Holland area commenced on 11 August 2014 with the publication of the Notice of Review.
- 1.3 In carrying out this review, the Council has sought to ensure that:-
- All the electors in the area have reasonable facilities for voting as are practicable in the circumstances.
  - So far as is reasonable and practicable, every polling place is accessible to electors who are disabled and when considering the designation of a polling place, must have regard to the accessibility needs of disabled persons.
  - The polling place is within the area of the polling district, unless special circumstances make it necessary to designate somewhere else.
- 1.4 Interested parties consulted as part of this review were:
- Returning Officer;
  - Member of Parliament;
  - Lincolnshire County Councillors covering the South Holland area;
  - South Holland Council Councillors;
  - Parish Council via parish Clerks;
  - Spalding Local Action Group;
  - Lincolnshire Association of People with Disabilities.

## 2.0 **CONSULTATION RESPONSES**

2.1 Responses to the consultation were received as follows:

2.2 Councillor A Newton was satisfied with the current situation in her ward;

2.3 Councillor G Taylor advised that for Friends Meeting House Polling Stations on Westlode Street car parking was a major issue. There were public car parking spaces on the roadside, but he would like to see a number of these reserved for voters on election day.

2.4 The Clerk to Gosberton Parish Council advised that the present locations were the most suitable;

## 3.0 **RETURNING OFFICER COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

3.1 That Polling Districts SAD1 and SAD2 be combined to make one Polling District SAD1.

3.2 That the Polling Place for Polling District SAF3 be changed from Tongue End to Deeping St Nicholas due to there being no Polling Station available in Tongue End.

3.3 That Polling District SCG1 and SCG2 be combined to make one Polling District SCG1.

3.4 That SJG2 Polling Place be changed from Lutton to Long Sutton due to the location of the properties in SJG2.

## 4.0 **OPTIONS**

4.1 To approve the Polling Districts and Polling Places within the South Holland area as at Appendix A.

4.2 To approve alternative arrangements.

## 5.0 **REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION**

5.1 To comply with the legislative requirements of the Electoral Administration Act 2006, Section 16 in implementing the findings of the statutory review and consultation process.

## 6.0 **EXPECTED BENEFITS**

6.1 Compliance with legislative requirements.

## 7.0 **IMPLICATIONS**

### 7.1 **Carbon Footprint / Environmental Issues**

7.1.1 It is the opinion of the Report Author that there are no implications.

### 7.2 **Constitution & Legal**

7.2.1 These are set out within the report

### 7.3 **Contracts**

7.3.1 It is the opinion of the Report Author that there are no implications.

### 7.4 **Corporate Priorities**

7.4.1 It is the opinion of the Report Author that there are no implications.

### 7.5 **Crime and Disorder**

7.5.1 It is the opinion of the Report Author that there are no implications.

### 7.6 **Equality and Diversity / Human Rights**

7.6.1 As part of the review the Returning Officer has sought to ensure that all the electors in the area have reasonable facilities for voting as are practicable in the circumstances. Also, to ensure that so far as is reasonable and practicable, every polling place is accessible to electors who are disabled and when considering the designation of a polling place, must have regard to the accessibility needs of disabled persons.

### 7.7 **Financial**

7.7.1 No additional financial implications as the number and location of Polling Stations remains unchanged.

### 7.8 **Health & Wellbeing**

7.8.1 It is the opinion of the Report Author that there are no implications.

### 7.9 **Risk Management**

7.9.1 It is the opinion of the Report Author that there are no implications.

### 7.10 **Staffing**

7.10.1 It is the opinion of the Report Author that there are no implications.

### 7.11 **Stakeholders / Consultation / Timescales**

7.11.1 These are set out in the body of the report.

### 8.0 **WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED**

8.1 All Wards.

### 9.0 **ACRONYMS**

9.1 None.

**Lead Contact Officer**

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**Director / Officer who will be attending the Meeting**

Name and Post: Vicky Thomson - Democratic and Legal Services Manager

**Key Decision:** No

**Exempt Decision:** No

**This report refers to a Mandatory Service**

**Appendices attached to this report:**

Appendix A List of Polling Places and Polling Stations