

Meeting of the City Council

6 December 2023

Report title	Statutory Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places 2023-2025	
Referring body	Governance and Ethics Committee – 23 November 2023	
Councillor to present report	Councillor Paula Brookfield	
Wards affected	All Wards	
Cabinet Member with lead responsibility	Councillor Paula Brookfield Cabinet Member for Governance and Equalities	
Accountable director	David Pattison, Chief Operating Officer	
Originating service	Electoral Services	
Accountable employee	Laura Noonan	Electoral Services and Scrutiny Manager
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Report to be/has been considered by	Governance and Ethics Committee	23 November 2023

Recommendations for decision:

The Council is recommended to:

1. Approve the polling district and polling place scheme contained in Appendix 1 to be adopted in relation to all elections.
2. Approve the necessary amendments to polling districts for the publication of the revised register on 2 January 2023.
3. Approve the delegation of authority to the Returning Officer and Chief Operating Officer in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Governance and Equalities, Leader and Leader of the Opposition to make minor alterations to the polling station scheme prior to the next compulsory statutory review in five years.

Recommendations for noting:

The Council is asked to note:

1. The annual publication of the revised register has been delayed from 1 December to 2 January 2024 due to a by-election taking place during the annual canvass period.

2. The submissions made to the Council as part of the polling district and station consultation, and the Returning Officer response to these are contained in Appendix 2.
3. There has been an increase of 2 schools to 17. 1 of these schools stays open on polling day and 7 currently plan for polling day as either an inset day or remote learning day. Comparatively, Wolverhampton uses the least number of schools across the region. From analysis carried out in September 2022, the number of schools used by other metropolitan councils in the region is set out below. All of these councils will also be carrying out their own statutory polling district review and many have boundary reviews so the situation may change:

Authority	Number of Schools Used
Birmingham	170+
Coventry	36
Dudley	60
Sandwell	25
Solihull	27
Walsall	26

1.0 Purpose

1.1 To approve the final proposals for the polling district and polling place scheme for 2023.

2.0 Background

2.1 On 23 November 2023, Governance and Ethics Committee considered a report on Final polling district and polling place proposals.

2.2 Governance and Ethics Committee recommended to Council that it approves:

1. Approve the polling district and polling place scheme contained in Appendix 1 to be adopted in relation to all elections.
2. Approve the necessary amendments to polling districts for the publication of the revised register on 2 January 2023.
3. Approve the delegation of authority to the Returning Officer and Chief Operating Officer in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Governance and Equalities, Leader and Leader of the Opposition to make minor alterations to the polling station scheme prior to the next compulsory statutory review in five years.

2.3 Committee name recommended to Council that it notes:

4. The annual publication of the revised register has been delayed from 1 December to 2 January 2024 due to a by-election taking place during the annual canvass period.
5. The submissions made to the Council as part of the polling district and station consultation, and the Returning Officer response to these are contained in Appendix 2.
6. The number of schools used and the comparison between the region as set out in the areas to note at the beginning of the report.

3.0 Financial implications

3.1 The financial implications are detailed in the Governance and Ethics Committee report of 23 November 2023.

4.0 Legal implications

4.1 The legal implications are detailed in the Governance and Ethics Committee report of 23 November 2023.

5.0 Equalities implications

5.1 The equalities implications are detailed in the Governance and Ethics Committee report of 23 November 2023.

6.0 All other Implications

6.1 All other implications are detailed in the Governance and Ethics Committee report of 23 November 2023.

7.0 Schedule of background papers

- 7.1 Boundary Commission for England Parliamentary Boundary Review Recommendations, Governance and Ethics Committee, 7 September 2023.
- 7.2 Statutory Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places 2023-2025, Governance and Ethics Committee, 23 November 2023.