

Briefing Note

Title: Statutory Polling Place Review

Prepared by: Laura Noonan, Project Manager – Electoral Services

Date: 12 September 2018

Intended audience: Internal Partner organisation

Public Confidential

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 This briefing note provides an overview of the statutory polling place review that must take place between October 2018 and January 2020.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 Principal authorities are required to divide every constituency within their area into polling districts for the purposes of UK Parliamentary elections and to designate a polling place for each polling district (where the polling station is situated). All local authorities must review their UK Parliamentary polling districts and polling places at least once every four years. The last polling place review for Wolverhampton was concluded in 2015.
- 2.2 The purpose of the review is to examine the 129 polling districts within the 20 wards in the city to ensure that the polling districts are well defined and do not exceed the maximum 2,500 electorate. Each polling district has a polling place where the polling station is located. The other part of the review is to ensure that polling stations are suitable in terms of location, size, availability and accessibility.
- 2.3 The Electoral Registration Officer (ERO), Leader and Chair of Special Advisory Group have signed off the timeline for the review which will formally commence in May 2019 after the next local election, with preliminary work beginning in October. The formal consultation will conclude in July 2019 and a final report will be taken to Full Council in October 2019, ready for any changes to be published in the revised register on 1 December 2019. See **appendix 1** for a timeline.
- 2.4 Feedback on the suitability of polling stations was gained from Presiding Officers, Polling Station Inspectors and Councillors after the 2018 local election and this will be used to inform the review.

3.0 Proposal

- 3.1 To invite all councillors to comment on current polling districts and polling stations and make suggestions to inform the preliminary scoping work. Laura Noonan will email all councillors in October to request feedback.