

East Suffolk Shadow Authority

Agenda
Item
10

SHADOW COUNCIL

Monday 28 January 2019

REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICTS, POLLING PLACES AND POLLING STATIONS (REP 27(SH))

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. All local authorities must conduct a compulsory review of Parliamentary polling districts and polling places. This current review must have been started and completed between 1 October 2018 and 1 January 2020.
2. This review had to be carried out to accommodate the consequential changes to parish wards resulting from the Local Government Boundary Commission's warding pattern.
3. The consultation process is now complete and the recommendations are outlined in the attached schedule.

Is the report Open or Exempt?	Open
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Wards Affected:	All
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Cabinet Member:	Councillor Herring Councillor Bee
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Supporting Officer:	Stephen Baker (Acting) Returning Officer / Chief Executive stephen.baker@eastssuffolk.gov.uk
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1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013 introduced a change to the timing of compulsory reviews of UK Parliamentary polling districts and polling places. The next compulsory review must be started and completed between 1 October 2018 and 31 January 2020.
- 1.2 A polling district is a geographical area created by the sub-division of a UK Parliamentary constituency. In England, each parish should be a separate polling district.
- 1.3 A polling place is the area or building in which a polling station will be situated.
- 1.4 A polling station is the room or building where the poll takes place.
- 1.5 The review requires the council to:
 - Seek to ensure that all the electors in the constituency have such reasonable facilities for voting as are practicable in the circumstances.
 - Seek to ensure that so far as is reasonable and practicable, the polling places they are responsible for are accessible to all electors, and when considering the designation of a polling place, must have regard to the accessibility of disabled persons.
- 1.6 The following cannot be considered as part of this review:
 - The changing of any district ward boundaries - an electoral review has already been carried out by the Local Government Boundary Commission.
 - The changing of any polling districts in areas which are aligned with parish boundaries. Parish boundaries can only be amended during a Community Governance Review.

2 THE REVIEW PROCESS

- 2.1 All polling stations are reviewed as a matter of course during the elections cycle. Review forms are completed by Presiding Officers and Polling Station Inspectors for each election and the stations are evaluated using the criteria laid down by the Electoral Commission.
- 2.2 The formal review notice was published on 8 October 2018.
- 2.3 The consultation period commenced on 8 October 2018 and ended on 30 November 2018.
- 2.4 As part of the review, visits were made to some current and prospective polling station venues to assess suitability.

3 LGBCE ELECTORAL REVIEW FOR EAST SUFFOLK

- 3.1 The East Suffolk Electoral Changes Order was officially made on Monday 17 December. Councillors will be elected to these wards on 2 May 2019.
- 3.2 The East Suffolk warding arrangements has resulted in some consequential changes to some parish wards in the district.
- 3.3 Changes to Parish Wards in Felixstowe, Lowestoft, Oulton, Oulton Broad and Rushmere St Andrew have resulted in changes to the polling districts in these areas.
- 3.4 Changes to Polling Districts in Lowestoft, Oulton, Oulton Broad and Rushmere St Andrew are a direct consequence of the results of the LGBCE Electoral Changes Order.

4 CONSULTATION

4.1 As part of the consultation, the following organisations/people were made aware of the review and invited to make comments:

- Political Parties (via local Party Agents/Contacts)
- District Councillors
- County Councillors representing Divisions within Suffolk Coastal and Waveney
- Town and Parish Councils
- Disability Groups – Suffolk Coastal and Waveney
- The Returning Officer for Central Suffolk and North Ipswich Parliamentary constituency

4.2 The consultation was promoted on the East Suffolk website and featured in the Coastline and In Touch publications.

4.3 Consultees were encouraged to give clear reasoning for changes to polling stations and alternative venues where changes were suggested.

5 RESULTS OF THE REVIEW

5.1 The recommendations from the review can be found in Appendix A.

5.2 All Polling District codes have been amended. The codes are identifiable and consistent across the new council area.

5.3 The changes identified in the schedule are as follows:

5.3.1 Central Suffolk and North Ipswich Constituency

- **Cretingham (CH)** – Change of Polling Station to Monewden Village Hall
- **Rushmere St Andrew (New)** (Beech Parish Ward) – New Polling District to be created to accommodate the new Parish Ward. Shared Polling Station with Kesgrave West.
- **Rushmere St Andrew (RC)** (Tower Parish Ward) – Properties removed from this Polling District to create the newly formed Beech Parish Ward of Rushmere St Andrew.

5.3.2 Suffolk Coastal Constituency

- **Felixstowe (F & FA)** - Change of PD names to Felixstowe Coastal.
- **Felixstowe (FB/FC)** – Amended PDs as a result of Parish Ward arrangements. Change of PD name to Felixstowe Walton.
- **Felixstowe (FBX)** – Amended PD as a result of Parish Ward arrangements. Change of PD name to Felixstowe Marshes.
- **Felixstowe (FD, FE, FH, FK)** – Amended PDs as a result of Parish Ward arrangements. Change of PD name to Felixstowe Coastal.
- **Felixstowe (FF,FG)** – Change of PD names to Felixstowe Coastal.

- **Felixstowe (FI)** – Small amendments to PD to include whole streets into PD. Change of PD name to Felixstowe Port.
- **Felixstowe (FJ)** – Amended PD as a result of Parish Ward arrangements. Change of PD name to Felixstowe Port.
- **Felixstowe (FKX)** – Deleting PD as a result of Parish Ward arrangements. Properties encompassed in other PDs.
- **Felixstowe (SWFPC)** – New PD created to facilitate new Parish Ward arrangements. Properties previously in FE. Polling Station located at Royal British Legion Hall.
- **Heveningham (HBX) and Ubbeston (HBY)** – Change of polling station to Huntingfield Village Hall (Hub).
- **Martlesham (MA)** – Change of Polling Station to Martlesham Community Centre.
- **Woodbridge (WH)** – Change of PD name to Woodbridge Farlingaye.
- **Woodbridge (WI)** – Change of PD name to Woodbridge Kyson.
- **Woodbridge (WJ)** – Change of PD name to Woodbridge Riverside.
- **Woodbridge (WK)** – Change of PD name to Woodbridge Seckford

5.3.3 Waveney Constituency

- **Carlton North (CAN)** – Change of PD name to Oulton Broad South West in line with the Parish Ward name.
- **Gunton (GCG)** – Amended PD as a result of Parish Ward arrangements.
- **Harbour North (HBN)** – Amended PD as a result of Parish Ward arrangements.
- **Kirkley West (KLW)** – Amended PD as a result of Parish Ward arrangements.
- **Parkhill (SMP)** – Amended PD as a result of Parish Ward arrangements. Change of PD name to Oulton West.
- **Oulton East (NGSOE)** – New PD created to facilitate new Parish Ward arrangements. Polling Station located at Benjamin Britten Academy.
- **Oulton Broad East (OUE)** – Change of Polling Station to Oulton Community Centre.
- **Pakefield North (PFN)** – Amended PD as a result of Parish Ward arrangements.
- **Tom Crisp (NCWTC)** – New PD created to facilitate new Parish Ward arrangements. Polling Station located at St Lukes Church Centre.
- **Whitton East (WHE)** – Amended PD as a result of Parish Ward arrangements.
- **Whitton North (WHN)** – Change of PD name to Oulton Broad South East in line with Parish Ward name.

5.4 The responses to the consultation can be found in Appendix B.

6 REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 6.1 The Shadow Authority must ensure that electoral arrangements are in place to facilitate elections to East Suffolk Council on 2 May 2019.
- 6.2 To comply with the statutory requirement a compulsory review must be completed by all authorities by 31 January 2020.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Shadow Authority adopts the Polling Districts, Polling Places and Polling Stations review for 2018/19 as per Appendices A, B and C.

APPENDICES

Appendix A	Results and Recommendations of the Review
Appendix B	Responses to Consultation
Appendix C	Felixstowe Map showing changes to Polling Districts