

CITY COUNCIL - 12 NOVEMBER 2018

REPORT OF THE DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

AMENDMENTS TO POLLING DISTRICTS AND PLACES

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report sets out a temporary delegation of authority to the Chief Executive to make any changes to existing polling districts and places, in his view made necessary by the ward boundaries changes arising from the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) Review of Electoral Equality in Nottingham City and brought into force by the Nottingham (Electoral Changes) Order 2018.
- 1.2 It also recommends a formal delegation of authority to the Chief Executive on an on-going basis to make changes to any polling places, as and when necessary, in between formal polling districts and places reviews, where the polling place is no longer available or fit for purpose.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 Council to delegate authority to the Chief Executive to make any changes to polling districts for the elections in 2019 which in his view are made necessary by the ward boundary changes brought into force by the Nottingham (Electoral Changes) Order 2018.
- 2.2 Council to delegate authority to the Chief Executive to make any changes to polling places for the elections in 2019 in those affected polling districts, which in his view are made necessary by the ward boundary changes brought into force by the Nottingham (Electoral Changes) Order.
- 2.3 Council to delegate authority to the Chief Executive on an on-going basis to identify and resolve any changes to polling places, where the venue is no longer available or fit for purpose in between scheduled formal polling districts and places reviews.
- 2.4 Council to note that a full polling districts and places review will commence after the local election in summer 2019, in conjunction with the scheduled Parliamentary Polling District and Places Review, which is required to be completed by no later than January 2020.

3 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 As a result of the recent LGBCE's review of wards within Nottingham City, there are a number of polling districts which have been affected by this change which now require amending, in order to reflect the changes to wards implemented as a result of that review.
- 3.2 The need for change arises in a small number of cases where whole polling districts or parts of polling districts are moving from one ward to another (see table below).

Existing polling districts remaining the same with no name change	Existing polling districts remaining the same but renamed due to new ward name	Existing polling district requiring change where parts of the polling district have moved
77	33	10

- 3.3 The changes to the polling districts are required to enable the City Council election on 2 May 2019 to be conducted on the new ward boundaries.
- 3.4 It has been usual practice for the Chief Executive to make amendments to polling places, at short notice, where a polling place has become unavailable or is no longer fit for purpose, in between the 4 year cycle of formal reviews. The recommendation at 2.3 above merely formalises this practice.
- 3.5 Council is asked to note that the delegation of authority to the Chief Executive to change the polling districts is a temporary measure for the purpose of realigning polling districts with the new wards for the election in 2019. A full review will take place after the election in conjunction with the Parliamentary Polling Districts and Places review, where the Council will be consulted on any new recommendations.

4 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED IN MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 As the amendments to the polling districts in this proposal are minimal and are only being implemented to reflect the changes to ward boundaries made by the LGBCE review, there is no other appropriate option to consider. The changes must be carried out to meet the requirements of The Nottingham (Electoral Changes) Order 2018 which requires these boundaries to be used for the purpose of the election of councillors in 2019.

5 BACKGROUND (INCLUDING OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION)

- 5.1 On 17 July 2018 The Nottingham (Electoral Changes) Order 2018 was made by parliament which set out the new ward boundaries as recommended by the LGBCE. The commencement of the order requires that the new boundaries come into effect for the purpose of proceedings preliminary or relating to the election of councillors, the day after the day on which the Order is made. Therefore the election in May 2019 must be conducted on the new boundaries.
- 5.2 The statutory responsibility for reviewing polling districts and places rests with the local authority. This will be for full council to consider unless the local authority has delegated that function to a committee, sub-committee or individual officer.
- 5.3 Legislation requires the local authority to conduct a Parliamentary Polling District and Places Review every 4 years. In doing so, this review will also incorporate any other boundaries for the administration of all other types of elections. The next review is scheduled to be completed by January 2020.

6 FINANCE COLLEAGUE COMMENTS (INCLUDING IMPLICATIONS AND VALUE FOR MONEY)

6.1 There are no financial implications associated with this decision.

Hayley Mason, Strategic Finance Business Partner, 30 October 2018

7 LEGAL AND PROCUREMENT COLLEAGUE COMMENTS (INCLUDING RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES, AND LEGAL, CRIME AND DISORDER ACT AND PROCUREMENT IMPLICATIONS)

7.1 The recommendations proposed in this report are necessary to ensure the most effective implementation of any changes to polling districts and places required as a result of changes to wards brought in by the Nottingham (Electoral Changes) Order 2018, in advance of the 2019 local elections.

Sarah Molyneux, Head of Legal and Governance, 30 October 2018

8 EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA)

8.1 An EIA is not required for the purpose of this report; however the requirements of an EIA will be considered and assessed when making any changes to polling places.

9 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS OTHER THAN PUBLISHED WORKS OR THOSE DISCLOSING CONFIDENTIAL OR EXEMPT INFORMATION

9.1 None

10 PUBLISHED DOCUMENTS REFERRED TO IN COMPILING THIS REPORT

10.1 LGBCE Recommendations for Nottingham City.

10.2 The Nottingham (Electoral Changes) Order 2018

**COUNCILLOR GRAHAM CHAPMAN
DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL**