

Equality Impact Assessment Form

Name and brief description of proposal / policy / service being assessed

Review of the Council's designated polling places under the provisions of the Representation of the People Act 1983, (as amended). Due to a number of polling places no longer being available and new accessibility requirements a review of existing places as been conducted. Assessment and consideration of the reasonable needs of the electorate and, in particular, the needs of disabled people are prescribed under the statutory review process. The designation of polling places must seek to ensure that all electors have such reasonable facilities for voting as are practicable and seek to ensure that so far as is reasonable and practicable the polling places are accessible to those who are disabled. Equality considerations have been integral to the review process.

Information used to analyse the effects on equality

Information has been obtained directly from the premises requesting information about the accessibility arrangements, to ensure they are fully accessible and for those that are not a site visit has been conducted. The following information has been sought/ gathered/considered during the review to which due regard has been given in formulating the Returning Officer's representations to Council about proposed changes to the Scheme of Polling Districts and Places:

Information received directly from the owners/managers, records of site inspections including specific assessments of access issues e.g. approach access, building level access, door access, disabled parking, lighting levels

The representations of the Returning Officer appended to the report detail the location, of each polling places and the reason why it can no longer be used

	Could particularly benefit (X)	May adversely impact (X)	How different groups could be affected: Summary of impacts	Details of actions to reduce negative or increase positive impact (or why action not possible)
People from different ethnic groups	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p><u>Disabled people</u> – all polling stations proposed for approval by council have suitable access.</p> <p>The removal of the final two portable units, which have limited access, will provide improved access for voters in these polling districts.</p>	<p><u>Disabled people</u> –any residual issues with access are minor and can be addressed via temporary ramping on election day (Electoral Services Manager to action)</p> <p>Poll cards carry maps showing the location of stations and clearly indicate the process and deadlines for applying for a postal vote so elderly electors affected have this option available.</p>
Men, women (including maternity/pregnancy impact), transgender people	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Disabled people or carers	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
People from different faith groups	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Lesbian, gay or bisexual people	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Older or younger people	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		

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Other (e.g. marriage/civil partnership, looked after children, cohesion/good relations, vulnerable children/adults)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p><u>Older people</u>- a very small number of existing stations are accessed via an incline /hill but where this is the case there is no other suitable alternative available.</p> <p><u>Young People</u>. Reduction in loss of school days and reduction in negative impact on teaching and learning..</p> <p><u>Other</u> Fewer parents and carers of school age children will be impacted financially as a result of the closure of schools on election day (either through increased child care costs / loss of earnings)</p>	
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Outcome(s) of equality impact assessment:

No major change needed ☒ Adjust the policy ☐ Adverse impact but continue ☐ Stop and remove the policy/proposal ☐

The proposals to Council represent an improvement overall in terms of addressing equality of access both in terms of improved access arrangements for disabled voters and no negative impact on individual children, parents and carers due to the closure of schools both in terms of educational opportunity and disadvantage.

Arrangements for future monitoring of equality impact of this proposal / policy / service: The overall scheme of polling places must be reviewed every 5 years but Electoral Services will keep individual locations under review / assess equality impact as and when changes to the agreed scheme are necessary (eg where an approved premise becomes unavailable) . This process is facilitated at all elections by the practice of staff/ elector/ inspector feedback. (Electoral Services Manager to action)

Approved by (manager signature): *NE Bamard* Date: 24.2.23