

URN: 23/202

Subject: Review of polling districts, polling places and polling stations

Report to: ELT / Council – 14 December 2023

Report by: Licensing and Elections Manager

SUBJECT MATTER AND DECISION REQUIRED

Members are reminded of the compulsory review of polling districts, polling places and polling stations which has been subject to consultation from 9 October to 14 November.

All comments have been considered and Members are asked to approve the final recommendations as attached.

RECOMMENDATION :

That Council :

(1) Note the outcome of the review of polling places and polling stations in accordance with the Council's statutory obligations.

(2) Approve the attached schedule of polling districts and polling stations incorporating the proposed final recommendations.

1. Background

- 1.1 Under the Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013 all local authorities are required to complete a review of their parliamentary polling districts and polling places at least every five years.
- 1.2 The last review in Great Yarmouth took place in 2019 although polling places are kept under review annually following an election.
- 1.3 The next compulsory review is required to be completed by 31 January 2025.
- 1.4 Polling arrangements for both parliamentary and local elections are the subject of legislation, principally the Representation of People Act 1983 (as amended)
- 1.5 Polling arrangements are determined by three inter-related features:
 - **Polling District** - is a geographical sub-division of an electoral area. For voting purposes, each Parliamentary constituency and every local government ward is divided into smaller polling districts. Great Yarmouth has 17 wards and 46 districts.
 - **Polling Place** – is the building or area in which polling stations are selected. A polling place within a polling district must be designated so that polling stations are within easy reach of all electors
 - **Polling Station** – is the room or area within the polling place where voting takes place.
- 1.6 When undertaking a review, the law says that an authority must
 - a) Seek to ensure that all the electors in the constituency have such reasonable facilities for voting as are practicable in the circumstances;

- b) Seek to ensure that so far as is reasonable and practicable, the polling places they are responsible for are accessible to all electors, including those who are disabled, and when considering the designation of a polling place, must have regard to the accessibility of disabled persons.

2. Review Process

- 2.1 As part of the consultation process, existing electoral arrangements were published and sent to the following interested parties:
- Local MP
 - NCC Councillors
 - GYBC Councillors
 - Parish Councils
 - Local political parties
 - Centre 81
 - Dial
 - Headway
 - Opening doors
 - RNIB
 - Vision Norfolk
 - Great Yarmouth and Waveney Mind
 - Age connected
- 2.2 The Returning Officer was also consulted for her views on the existing arrangements
- 2.3 The consultation period ran from 9 October – 14 November 2023.
- 2.4 Several comments were received and these are attached in Appendix 1.
- 2.5 It should be noted that two of the comments received did include a suggested alternative, and the reasons for not changing these are in the attached schedule of polling districts and polling stations.
- 2.5 Following the review it will still be possible to change polling stations if a building became unavailable at election time.

3. Conclusion

- 3.1 On completion of the review the Council is required to give reasons for its decisions in the review and to publish the result.
- 3.2 Following the review, it is considered that there should be no change to the existing arrangements. Current arrangements provide all electors with such reasonable facilities for voting as are practicable in the circumstances and so far as is reasonable and practicable the polling places are accessible to all electors, including those who are disabled.

4. Decision Required

4.1 To note the outcome of the review of polling places and polling stations in accordance with the Council's statutory obligations and to approve the attached schedule of polling districts and polling stations incorporating the proposed final recommendations.

Areas of consideration: e.g. does this report raise any of the following issues and if so how have these been considered/mitigated against?

Area for consideration	Comment
Monitoring Officer Consultation:	
Section 151 Officer Consultation:	
Existing Council Policies:	
Financial Implications (including VAT and tax):	
Legal Implications (including human rights):	
Risk Implications:	
Equality Issues/EQIA assessment:	
Crime & Disorder:	
Every Child Matters:	

Polling Station no.	Polling Station Name	Polling Station Address	Polling District	Electorate	Electoral Ward	Accessibility	Returning Officer Comments	Alternative suggested	Recommendation to Council
1-2	Mill Lane Centre	Playing Field Mill Lane Bradwell NR31 8HS	BN1	5,078	Bradwell North	Level	This polling station is suitably located and accessible. It has a large car park and is able to accommodate the two polling stations needed for the electorate.	None	No change necessary
3	Communal Room	The Close Bradwell NR31 8DS	BS1	1,452	Bradwell South and Hopton	Level	This is a suitable location for the area it covers, good accessibility and availability	None	No change necessary
4	Community Centre	Lords Lane Bradwell NR31 8QH	BS2	2,826		Level	This polling station is well positioned for the polling district.	None	No change necessary
5	Village Hall	Hopton NR31 9BE	BS3	3,643		Level	Village Hall purpose built and accessible	None	No change necessary
6-7	The Centurion	Ormesby Road Caister Nr30 5NJ	CN	3,643	Caister North	Level	Polling station is used for two polling stations to accommodate large electorate. Premises is centrally located with large car park.	None	No change necessary
8-9	Council Hall	Yarmouth Road Caister NR30 5DL	CS1 CS2	3428 149	Caister South	Level	Premise used is accessible and has good availability. Car parking can be a little difficult but the area does have short stay spaces on roadside	None	No change necessary
10	Emmanuel Church	Northgate Street Great Yarmouth NR30 1BJ	CE1	2,580	Central and Northgate	Ramp for disabled access	Has continued to be used for several years with no adverse comments received. Parking is a little limited but we ensure cones are placed outside the station to allow for polling day parking only and will continue to do so.	None	No change necessary
11	The Priory Centre	Priory Passage Great Yarmouth NR31 1NW	CE2	3,057		Level	Accessible premise, although it is hidden from the main road. Extra signage is provided to alleviate this difficulty. Car parking is available on road side	None	No change necessary
12	Communal Room	Manor Close Gorleston NR31 0PX	CL1 AND CL2	1562 and 1085	Claydon	Slope to entrance	Good accessible building with confirmed availability. Extra signage at Junction of manor Road & Suffolk Road is helpful.	None	No change necessary
13	Communal Room	Genista Green Gorleston NR31 0PX	CL3	1,226		Purpose built ramp	Accessible building with the use of a ramp. Confirmed availability and centrally located. Extra signage required to identify location from main road.	None	No change necessary
14	Youth and Adult Centre	Magdalen Way Gorleston NR31 7BW	CL4	1,631		Level	Accessible building .	None	No change necessary
15	Village Hall St Mary's Room	Waters Lane Hemsby NR29 4NH	EF1	2,746	East Flegg	Level	Village Hall for parish - centrally located and known to the area	Pavilion, Waters Lane Hemsby	Comments received regarding alternative building. Venue inspected and building is accessible and fit for purpose however so is current premises. Both venues are within the same polling place and as such there is deemed no reason to alter the existing set up at this stage.
16	Village Hall	Somerton NR29 4DL	EF2	209		Level	Village Hall for parish - centrally located and known to the area	None	No change necessary

17	Village Hall	Kings Corner Winterton NR29 4DD	EF3	999		Removable ramp	Village Hall for parish - centrally located and known to the area	None	No change necessary
18	Club Room	Main Road Filby NR29 3AA	FL1	703	Fleggburgh	External ramp to rear of building	Accessible building - village hall for parish, centrally located	None	No change necessary
19	Village Hall	Main Road Fleggburgh Nr29 3AG	FL2	856		Level	Accessible building - village hall for parish, centrally located, ample parking.	None	No change necessary
20	Village Hall	Runham NR29 3AH	FL3	340		Level	Accessible building - village hall for parish, centrally located and known to area	None	No change necessary
21	Community Centre	Old School Stokesby NR29 3ER	FL4	269		Disabled access ramp at rear	Centrally located with parking. Known to area	None	No change necessary
22	Cliff Hotel	Cliff Hill Gorleston NR31 6DH	GO1	3,052	Gorleston	Level	Well known in area and can accommodate large electorate. Parking is however a little limited.	None	No change necessary
23	Unit 4 Wellington Park	Excalibur Road Beacon Park Gorleston NR31 7BB	GO2 GO3	692 326		Level into foyer. Stairs for access to first floor. Lift is available	Good location for residents on the Beacon Park estate. Great difficulty in finding alternative premises, this premise has been used for the last few elections and no adverse comments have been received. The unit changed in 2023 and a room on the first floor was made available. Although not ideal there is use of a lift.	None	No change necessary
24	The Institute	Station Road South, Belton NR31 9JG	LO1	2,879	Lothingland	Level with separate entrance for disabled access	Building accessible, although no specified parking. Well known to area with good availability.	Sports Hall New Road Belton	Comments received regarding alternative building. Venue suggested was inspected and building is accessible and fit for purpose, it is however on the outskirts of the parish. Existing arrangement is centrally located and within walking distance for many residents. It is therefore recommended that there is no change necessary.
25	Village Hall	Church Road Burgh Castle Nr31 9QF	LO2	907		Level	Accessible village Hall, centrally located for village. External lighting could be improved	None	No change necessary
26	Village Institute	Fritton NR31 9AB	LO3	207		Level	Accessible village hall well known to residents, good availability.	None	No change necessary
27	Village Institute	St Olaves Nr31 9HD	LO4	229		Level	Accessible village Hall, centrally located for village.	None	No change necessary
28	Methodist Church Hall	Magdalen Way Gorleston NR31 7BW	MA1	2,470	Magdalen	Level	Accessible hall, adequate for polling district	None	No change necessary
29	St Mary's Church Hall	Fastolff Avenue Gorleston NR31 7ND	MA2	2,196		Level	Accessible hall, adequate for polling district	None	No change necessary
30	Community Building	Amethyst Close Gorleston Nr31 6EU	MA3	513		Alternative arrangement for disabled access	Small room for a compact polling district. Extra signage is required, especially on main road as can be difficult to locate	None	No change necessary
31	St Georges Theatre Café	King Street Great Yarmouth NR30 2PG	NE1	2,181	Nelson	Level	Good location and easily identified. Accessible building	None	No change necessary
32	Comfort Inn	Albert Square Great Yarmouth NR30 3JH	NE2	1,782		Level	Accessible room. Has been used for the last few elections with no adverse comments received.	None	No change necessary

33	Community Centre	Peggotty Road Great Yarmouth NR30 3EF	NE3	1,221		Level	Accessible hall, centrally located	None	No change necessary
34	Village Centre	Ormesby St Margaret NR29 3PU	OR1	2,266	Ormesby	Level with ramp access for disabled.	Accessible hall, centrally located within village. Adequate parking	None	No change necessary
35	Village Hall	Ormesby St Michael NR29 3LW	OR2	265		Alternative arrangement for disabled access	Accessible hall, centrally located within village. Adequate parking	None	No change necessary
36	All Saints Parish Hall	Beach Road Scratby NR29 3AJ	OR3	1,256		Level	Accessible hall, ample parking.	None	No change necessary
37	Communal Room	Priory Street Gorleston NR31 6NG	SA1	1,443	St Andrews	Level	Accessible hall, good availability	None	No change necessary
38	Methodist Church	Lowestoft Road Gorleston NR31 6SX	SA2	2,044		Small lip - temporary ramp available	Accessible with temporary ramp. Parking only available on roadside	None	No change necessary
39	Cobholm Community Centre	St Luke's Terrace Cobholm NR31 0AP	SC1	1,803	Southtown and Cobholm	Fitted ramp to front door with small lip	Accessible building. Parking very limited on roadside.	None	No change necessary
40	Lichfield Community Centre	Southtown NR31 0QL	SC2	1,775		Level	Accessible building, adequate for polling district	None	No change necessary
41	Chapel Schoolroom	Thurne NR29 3AP	WF1 WF5	44 114	West Flegg	Level	Joint station for adjoining villages,	None	No change necessary
42	Village Hall	White Stsreet Martham NR29 4PG	WF2	2,992		Gently sloping ramp to entrance	Village hall, centrally located within the village	None	No change necessary
43	Village Hall	Playingfield Repps NR29 5EU	WF3	324		Level	Village hall, centrally located within the village. Ample parking	None	No change necessary
44	The Pavillion	Playingfield Rollesby NR29 5EG	WF4	792		Level	Village hall, centrally located within the village.	None	No change necessary
45	Communal Room	Hawkins Close Gt Yarmouth NR30 4AY	YN1	2,179	Yarmouth North	Level	Convenient hall with good availability	None	No change necessary
46	Communal Room	Beatty Close Great Yarmouth NR30 4BN	YN2	1,192		Level	Accessible unit - a little difficult to locate so extra signage is required. Some parking available	None	No change necessary

Comments received on polling station review

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