

County Council
9th October, 2019

REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICTS AND POLLING PLACES

Purpose: The Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places has been carried out under the Representation of the People Acts and is presented for Decision.

Recommendations / key decisions required:

To accept and approve the final proposals in respect of the review.

Reasons: To comply with the relevant legislation

Relevant scrutiny committee to be consulted No/NA

Exec Board Decision Required NO

Council Decision Required YES

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER:- Cllr David Jenkins (Statutory Services)

Directorate: Chief Executives

Designations:

Tel Nos.01267 224112

Name of Head of Service:

E Mail Addresses:

Wendy Walters

Chief Executive

WSWalters@carmarthenshire.gov.uk

Report Author:

01267 228609

Amanda Bebb

Electoral Services and Civil
Registration Manager

Abebb@carmarthenshire.gov.uk

County Council
Polling Districts and Polling Places

The Representation of the People Act 1983 Section 18c (as amended by the Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013 Section 17) introduced a duty for all parliamentary polling districts and polling places to be reviewed every 5 years. The review must be undertaken between October 2018 and January 2020. The review that has been undertaken meets this requirement.

The commencement of a Preliminary Review of current polling districts and polling places took place from 3 September 2018 and ended on 12 October 2018. As part of preparing a proposed revised Polling Districts and Polling Places Scheme, the Returning Officer took into account as key considerations the convenience for electors and the accessibility for voters with disabilities.

The review process began 23 January 2019 with a public consultation exercise on our Carmarthenshire website, consultation with all interested parties and the publication of a Public Notice of the Review together with a schedule of the existing scheme and a schedule of the proposed scheme highlighting the proposed changes – See Appendices 1A,1B,1C. These were published at the Elections Office and on the Council’s website. The consultation opened on 23 January 2019 and Carmarthenshire County Councillors, Town/Community councils and identified persons/groups who have a special interest in the disabled, were invited to comment on both the existing arrangements and to make any representations in respect of any alternative proposals for change. The deadline for representations was 27th February 2019.

Three responses were received and seven responses were received in relation to the live consultation and these are set out in Appendix 1.

Following representations made by members, it was agreed that further consultation would be undertaken directly with members whose Electoral Divisions were affected and this was undertaken during July 2019.

As a result, representations were received from Merthyr Community Hall Association, Huw Evans Auctioneers, Clerk to Llanfihangel Rhos Y Corn Community Council and five of the ten Members consulted, and these are set out in Annexe 1 as post consultation responses, together with revised proposals for polling station arrangements.

This report is presented to Council for Decision and to note the submissions made to the Council in respect of the review of polling districts and polling places for the County of Carmarthenshire

OTHER OPTIONS AVAILABLE AND THEIR PROS AND CONS

No alternative as it is a statutory requirement to comply with this legislation.

DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED?	YES – Appendix 1
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IMPLICATIONS

I confirm that other than those implications which have been agreed with the appropriate Directors / Heads of Service and are referred to in detail below, there are no other implications associated with this report :

Signed: Wendy Walters

Chief Executive

Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities	Legal	Finance	ICT	Risk Management Issues	Staffing Implications	Physical Assets
NONE	YES	NONE	NONE	YES	NONE	NONE

2. Legal

To comply with Section 17 of the Electoral Administration Act 2013, Carmarthenshire County Council is required to conduct a review of all parliamentary polling districts and polling places within the Carmarthenshire Parliamentary Constituencies by 31st January 2020.

5. Risk Management Issues

The carrying out of this review reduces the risk of unsuitable polling districts and polling places. The Council is legally required to carry out this review and thus not to do so is a significant risk.

CONSULTATIONS

I confirm that the appropriate consultations have taken in place and the outcomes are as detailed below

Signed: Wendy Walters

Chief Executive

1. Scrutiny Committee

N/A

2. Local Member(s)

All Members

Further consultation took place with the following Members, and any observations received are included within Annex 1.:

Cllr. Dorian Williams

Cllr. Betsan Jones

Cllr. Irfon Jones

Cllr. Eirwyn Williams

Cllr. Dorian Phillips

Cllr. Mansel Charles

Cllr. Linda Evans

Cllr. Emlyn Dole

Cllr. Dot Jones

Cllr. Carl Harris

Cllr. Karen Davies

3. Community / Town Council

All Community/Town Councils

4. Relevant Partners

MPs for Llanelli, Carmar East and Dinefwr and Carmar West and South Pembrokeshire

MEPs for Wales Region

Disability Groups

Returning Officer for Carmarthen West and South Pembrokeshire

5. Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations

N/A

Section 100D Local Government Act, 1972 – Access to Information

List of Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:

Appendix 1-List of responses

Appendices 1A,1B,1C- Returning Officer's Proposals