

SOUTH HOLLAND DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT TO: COUNCIL – 24 JANUARY 2007

BY: HEAD OF LEGAL AND MEMBER SERVICES

SUBJECT: Review of Polling Districts and Polling Stations

PURPOSE: To report on a review of polling places as a consequence of the recommendations of the Electoral Commission in respect of Warding arrangements.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 As members will be aware from recent correspondence, the Electoral Commission has now approved the final recommendations of the Boundary Committee. There has only been one slight amendment to the final recommendations, which relates to a minor error in the boundary between the Spalding Monks House Ward and the Spalding St John's Ward. The final recommendations had resulted in moving most of Hereward Road from Spalding Monks House Ward to Spalding St John's Ward, but had left numbers 72A-84 in the Spalding Monks House Ward. The final recommendations now show the whole of Hereward Road as forming part of the Spalding St John's Ward.
- 1.2 The Electoral Commission has not (at the time of writing) issued the necessary Order effecting the boundary changes. However, we have been advised that the final recommendations will not change. Members will no doubt recall their anger at a number of the proposals – strong representations were made to the Electoral Commission, but have not resulted in any changes to the Commission's proposals. The Order will be effective in time for the local elections in May, and it has therefore been necessary to commence the administrative work required to incorporate the changes. The Register of Electors will be re-sequenced and a revised Register of Electors published on 1 February 2007.

2.0 REVIEW OF POLLING PLACES

- 2.1 The final recommendations result in a number of boundary changes across the district, details of which have previously been submitted to members. The boundary changes, including the merger of some existing wards, have resulted in a need to change polling places for some electors. Wherever possible, we have tried to avoid changes. However, a number of changes have been inevitable given the magnitude of the boundary changes themselves.
- 2.2 Council is invited to consider the attached schedules and maps, with a view to making any observations as it sees fit. Schedule A lists all of the affected properties, together with the old and new polling station for that area. Schedule B lists all polling stations allocated to each area across the whole district.

3.0 FURTHER CONSULTATION

- 3.1 Further consultation will be carried out on the review of polling places as follows:
- A notice will be placed in the local press, inviting observations from local electors
 - Parish Councils
 - John Hayes, MP
 - Political parties

3.2 All electors who are affected by this review will receive written confirmation of the changes well in advance of the local elections in May. They will also receive poll cards prior to the District Council elections, which will detail the address of their new polling station.

4.0 **FUTURE IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 There are no significant financial, legal or staffing implications arising from this report. However, there is a need to complete the review quickly so that the local elections can be managed effectively and efficiently.

5.0 **RECOMMENDATION**

5.1 That members consider the proposals contained in the schedules attached, and make any observations deemed appropriate.

Background papers:- None

File Ref:

Appendices: A – Schedule of affected properties and associated polling stations

B – Schedule of polling stations allocated across the district