

Report of:	Meeting	Date	Item no.
Cllr Peter Gibson, Leader of the Council, and Garry Payne (Returning Officer)	Council	22 January 2015	22

<p><b>Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places within The Borough of Wyre</b></p>
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**1. Purpose of report**

- 1.1 To consider the Returning Officer's proposals arising from the review of polling districts and polling places within the Borough of Wyre.

**2. Outcomes**

- 2.1 That all electors within the Borough of Wyre have reasonable and accessible facilities for voting as are practicable in the circumstances.
- 2.2 To ensure that so far as is reasonable and practicable, the polling places are accessible to all electors, including those who are disabled.

**3. Recommendations**

- 3.1 That the proposals contained within the Returning Officer's report attached at Appendix A be approved.
- 3.2 That the Returning Officer be authorised to determine any unforeseen changes to polling places which become necessary for future elections.

**4. Background**

- 4.1 Every four years local authorities are required to undertake a review of all polling districts and polling places and the next review has to be completed by 31 January 2015. The review seeks to ensure that all electors have reasonable facilities for voting in elections and every polling place is accessible to electors who are disabled. Members of the public, borough councillors, political parties, parish/town councils and neighbouring councils affected by the proposals have been consulted regarding the proposals.

**4.2** A polling district is the geographical sub-division of an electoral ward.

The Council is responsible for dividing its area into polling districts for UK Parliamentary elections and for keeping the polling districts under review.

Although there is no requirement to sub-divide local government electoral wards into polling districts, it is recognised good practice to do so. In Wyre the same polling districts are used for both parliamentary and local government elections.

When designating polling districts, the Council must seek to ensure that all the electors in the constituency have such reasonable facilities for voting as are practicable in the circumstances.

**4.3** A polling place is the building in which a polling station is located.

A polling station is the actual area where the process of voting takes place, and must be located within the polling place designated for the particular polling district. This function is the responsibility of the Returning Officer.

The Council must designate a polling place for every polling district in the Borough.

The polling place for a polling district must be within the area of the district unless special circumstances make it desirable to designate an area either wholly or partly outside of the polling district.

**4.4** The review process

The Council is required to publish notice of the holding of a review.

This has been done by way of a notice published on the Council's website, one posted inside and outside the Civic Centre in Poulton-le-Fylde, on 21 Parish and Town Council notice boards and at public libraries within Wyre.

**4.5** The polling districts and polling places will come into effect for all future elections from the Parliamentary, Borough and Parish/Town Council elections on 7 May 2015.

**4.6** When undertaking the review of polling districts and polling places, consideration had to be given to the existing European, Parliamentary, County and Parish/Town Council boundaries. In addition, all polling places must be designated so that they are within easy reach of all electors from across the polling district. The electorate figures used were the current electoral figures available.

#### **4.7 The role of the Returning Officer**

The Council is required to consult the Returning Officer for every parliamentary constituency that is wholly or partly within its area. This means that the Returning Officer must consult the Returning Officer of Blackpool Borough Council in respect of the Wyre wards within the parliamentary constituency of Blackpool North & Cleveleys, the Returning Officer of Lancaster City Council in respect of the Wyre wards within the parliamentary constituency of Lancaster and Fleetwood and also the Returning Officer of Preston City Council in respect of the Wyre wards within the parliamentary constituency of Wyre and Preston North.

### **5. Key issues and proposals**

- 5.1** This report contains details of any proposed changes to polling districts and polling places.

A schedule of polling districts and polling places has been supplied to Members of the Council, other political parties, and to persons who have particular expertise in relation to access to premises or facilities for persons who have different forms of disability. The schedule has also been posted on the Council's website.

- 5.2** In the course of the review process officers have examined existing polling places. In considering their continuing suitability officers have considered public safety, the availability of buildings, accessibility, location in relation to the centres of population in the polling district, transport links and overall suitability. Officers have then on balance selected the most reasonable and most suitable polling place. Where 'no change' has been recommended the existing polling place is deemed as best meeting these criteria and given all circumstances the best available polling place for the polling district concerned.

- 5.3** The new electoral register containing any revised polling districts will be published on 16 February 2015. New polling districts and polling places will become effective at all future elections from the Parliamentary, Borough and Parish/Town Council elections on 7 May 2015.

<b>Financial and legal implications</b>	
Finance	None arising directly from the report.
Legal	There is a statutory requirement contained in the Representation of the People Act 1983 to formally designate polling places.

### **Other risks/implications: checklist**

If there are significant implications arising from this report on any issues marked with a ✓ below, the report author will have consulted with the appropriate specialist officers on those implications and addressed them in the body of the report. There are no significant implications arising directly from this report, for those issues marked with an x.

<b>risks/implications</b>	<b>✓ / x</b>
community safety	<b>x</b>
equality and diversity	<b>x</b>
sustainability	<b>x</b>
health and safety	<b>x</b>

<b>risks/implications</b>	<b>✓ / x</b>
asset management	<b>x</b>
climate change	<b>x</b>
data protection	<b>x</b>

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<b>List of background papers:</b>		
Name of document	Date	Where available for inspection
Electoral Commission Guidance Review of polling districts, polling places and polling stations	August 2013	Electoral Services Manager: Room 166
Consultation responses received arising from the review of polling districts and polling stations within Wyre	Various	Electoral Services Manager: Room 166

### **List of appendices**

Appendix A –List of Wards within the Borough of Wyre and information relating to current polling districts and polling places therein and any proposed changes.



REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICTS  
AND POLLING PLACES IN THE  
BOROUGH OF WYRE

**RETURNING OFFICER'S REPORT**

**FEBRUARY 2015**

## **MOUNT WARD**

The ward boundary changes have meant the creation of two polling districts within this ward. This has been required due to the County and Parish boundaries. The polling place proposed for polling district WAA is the Sheltered Accommodation Communal Room on Hatfield Avenue which is already in use as a polling place. WAB polling district comprises the newly created parish ward of St. Wulstan's. The proposed polling place is St. Wulstan's RC Church Hall, 'Green Hut', Poulton Road, which is the most suitable polling place available and is also already in use.

## **PARK WARD**

The boundary review has resulted in some minor changes to this ward and the creation of two polling districts is proposed. The two polling places currently used are considered to be the most suitable option for residents.

Councillors Ian and Ruth Duffy have however, proposed the use of Flakefleet Primary school, Northfleet Avenue as opposed to the Trinity Methodist Church Hall, Fleetwood Road because the majority of electors in this polling district (WBA) live on the Flakefleet side of the very busy Fleetwood Road. The school had been successfully used as a polling place up until 2011 and they consider this location to be more convenient and safer for the electorate.

The Electoral Services Manager has liaised with Flakefleet Primary School on a number of occasions regarding the use of the school as a polling place. The move to Trinity Methodist Church on Fleetwood Road arose because of the extensive building works which were taking place at the school at that time. Prior to the building works the Returning Officer used one of two halls which were available. However, completion of these building works means that there is only one main hall for use by the whole school. This main hall is used daily as the dining hall. There is no other Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) compliant room within the rest of the school that could be used.

Furthermore, as a rule, if alternative suitable accommodation can be found other than using a school then the Returning Officer will favour the use of this accommodation. To assign Flakefleet Primary School as a polling place would cause unnecessary disruption. There is ample parking at Trinity Methodist Church Hall and the zebra crossing at the West View Health Village means that Fleetwood Road can be crossed safely.

It is therefore proposed to continue using Trinity Methodist Church Hall and St. Edmund's RC Church, Melbourne Avenue as the two polling places.

## **PHAROS WARD**

The boundary review has resulted in very minor changes to this ward and the creation of two polling districts is proposed. The two polling places currently used are considered to be the most suitable option for residents. It is therefore proposed to continue using St. Mary's RC Primary School, London Street and the Youth and Community Centre, on Milton Street as the two polling places.

## **ROSSALL WARD**

The boundary for this ward has not changed and the three polling places currently used are good polling places and considered to be the most suitable for residents. It is proposed to continue using Charles Saer Primary School, Grange Road, Fleetwood High School Post 16

Centre, Broadway and Larkholme Primary School, Windermere Avenue, Fleetwood as the three polling place for Rossall Ward.

### **WARREN WARD**

The ward boundary changes have meant the creation of two polling districts within this ward. The polling place proposed for polling district WEA is the United Reformed Church School Rooms on Dronsfield Avenue which are already in use as a polling place and is considered a good venue. A polling district needs to be created for the remaining part of the ward that is polling district WEB and the Sea Cadet Base, Princes Way is proposed as the polling place for this area. It is acknowledged that the Sea Cadet Base is situated at the far end of the polling district however the facilities and parking at this venue are excellent and on balance considered to outweigh the distance required to reach the location. Also there are no other suitable alternative venues available within this area of the ward.

### **BRECK WARD**

There have been some small modifications to the boundary of this ward. It is proposed that the ward will not be split into polling districts and that one polling place is proposed at the Youth and Community Centre on Breck Road. This venue is the current polling place for Breck Ward and although now vacant, will be made available for use on election days. The venue is central to the ward and is considered to be a suitable and convenient polling place.

### **CARLETON WARD**

There are only minor modifications to the boundaries of Carleton Ward which comprise a number of the roads at the southern part of the ward now falling within Carleton ward not neighbouring Tithebarn ward. It is proposed that the ward will remain as one polling district and that the current polling place at St.Martin and St.Hilda's Church Hall, Fleetwood Road, Carleton which is considered to be a very good polling place continues to be used.

### **HARDHORN WITH HIGHCROSS**

The boundary review created the new ward of Hardhorn with Highcross and three polling districts are required. The three existing polling places of Carr Head Primary School, Baines High School and the Mobile Unit on land fronting 102-104 Normoss Road are all good, suitable polling places and therefore it is proposed to continue using them as polling places for the Hardhorn with Highcross Ward.

### **TITHEBARN**

There have been some small modifications to the boundary of this ward and it is proposed that the ward is not split into polling districts. The current polling place for the ward is the Teanlowe Day Centre, Dining Room, Queensway, however, it is proposed that the newly refurbished Methodist Church Hall, Queensway (opposite) be assigned the polling place for the ward. The venue offers excellent facilities and its location is slightly more central within the ward allowing easier access for the electorate.

### **BOURNE WARD**

The boundary to this ward has been amended considerably and three polling districts are required due to the Parliamentary and County boundaries. It is proposed that the Bamber Room adjacent to Sacred Heart RC Church on Heys Street will be the polling place for polling district WKA to the north of the ward. It is considered to be a good polling place which is central to the area and has been used for some time. It is also proposed that Thornton

Methodist Church Hall, Victoria Road East, which is an existing polling place be used by electors within polling district WKB located to the south of the ward. It is also proposed that the small number of electors living within polling district WKC also use Thornton Methodist Church Hall. There are no other venues available within this polling district and it is not considered to be too far for electors to travel.

### **CLEVELEYS PARK WARD**

The boundary review has resulted in major changes to this ward, but does not require the creation of new polling districts. It is therefore proposed that the existing polling place at the Haven Tutorial Centre on Ringway continue to be used as the one polling place for the ward. The venue is conveniently located within the centre of the ward with easy access for electors from all locations. Although the room now allocated for use as a polling place at the Haven Centre is slightly small it is considered to be more than adequate and is still the most suitable polling place available.

### **JUBILEE WARD**

The boundary review has resulted in very minor changes to this ward and three polling districts are required due to the Parliamentary and County boundaries. It is proposed that Cleveleys Community Centre, Kensington Road, will be the polling place for polling district WMA to the south of the ward. It is considered to be a very good polling place which is central to the area and has been used for some time. It is also proposed that the small number of electors living within polling district WMC also use Cleveleys Community Centre. There are no other venues available within this polling district and it not considered to be too far for electors to travel. It is further proposed that a Mobile Unit continue to be used on the layby fronting Green Drive for electors living within the north area of the ward within polling district WMB. Although the use of the mobile unit is not considered ideal it is the only available solution as there are no other venues available within this polling district that could be utilised as a polling place.

### **MARSH MILL WARD**

The boundary review has resulted in the creation of this new ward and four polling districts are required due to the Parliamentary and County boundaries. It is proposed that Thornton Little Theatre, Fleetwood Road North, will be the polling place for polling districts WNA and WND at the southern end of the ward. This is a new polling place which is central to the two polling districts with good access and ample car parking. It is proposed that the 1<sup>st</sup> Thornton Cleveleys Scout Hut on Marsh Road be the polling place for polling district WNB and Christ Church Hall on Meadows Avenue be the polling place for polling district WNC situated at the northern end of the ward. These polling places are considered to be quite suitable and are accessible from all parts of the polling district and have been used for some time.

### **PHEASANT'S WOOD WARD**

The boundary review has resulted in the creation of this new ward and one polling district is required. The polling place currently used for this area is the only option available. This is a mobile unit which is sited at the entrance to Pheasant Wood Drive on Bourne Way.

### **STANAH WARD**

The boundary review has resulted in very minor changes to this ward but does not require the creation of new polling districts. It is therefore proposed that the existing polling place at St John's Church Hall, Stanah Road continue to be used as the one polling place for the ward. The venue is very conveniently located within the centre of the ward with easy access

for electors from all locations. The polling place is a very good venue that has been in use for some time.

### **VICTORIA AND NORCOSS WARD**

The boundary review has resulted in major changes to this ward, but does not require the creation of new polling districts. It is therefore proposed that the existing polling place at the Senior Citizen's Association Hall at 190 Victoria Road West continue to be used as the one polling place for the ward - WR. The venue is an appropriate size with excellent facilities that is conveniently located within the ward with easy access for electors from all locations. There are no other venues available within this polling district that are suitable.

### **BROCK WITH CATTERALL WARD**

The boundary review has resulted in the creation of this new ward which comprises the parishes of Catterall, Claughton-on-Brock and Myerscough and Bilsborrow and the three existing polling places for these areas are considered to be the most suitable. It is therefore proposed to continue using Catterall Village Hall, Claughton Memorial Hall and Bilsborrow Village Hall as the three polling places.

The Myerscough and Bilsborrow Parish Clerk has proposed that an additional polling place be created at Myerscough College to accommodate the electorate in this part of the ward. The Returning Officer has considered the suggestion but does not recommend that a further polling place be created due to the small electorate and the disruption that would be caused at the college on election day.

### **CALDER WARD**

There are no changes to the boundaries of this ward which is split into two polling districts which are coterminous with the boundaries of Barnacre-with Bonds Parish boundary. It is proposed to continue using the existing polling places within this ward as both Calder Vale Village Hall and SS Mary and Michael RC Primary School which, are the most suitable venues.

### **GARSTANG WARD**

The boundary review has resulted in the parish of Cabus now forming part of Garstang ward. This means that the ward is split into four polling districts which comprise the parishes of Cabus, Garstang and Nateby. It is proposed to continue using the existing polling places of Cabus Village Hall and Nateby Primary School for the electorate in polling district WUA and WUC1. It is however, proposed that the polling place for WUB Garstang and WUC2 Nateby be changed from St. Thomas's Parish Hall, Church Street to the Scout HQ on Kepple Lane. The council has been advised that the Parish Hall has been put up for sale and is no longer available for use as a polling place. The Scout Hut is an excellent venue with good facilities and adequate parking with easy access for the electorate.

### **GREAT ECCLESTON WARD**

The boundary review has resulted in the parish of Kirkland now forming part of Great Eccleston ward. This means that the ward is split into five polling districts which comprise the parishes of Great Eccleston, Inskip-with-Sowerby, Kirkland, Out Rawcliffe and Upper Rawcliffe -with-Tarnacre. It is proposed to continue using the existing polling places of Great Eccleston WI, Chapel Street, YIP Centre, Inskip, Kirkland and Catterall Memorial Hall, Out Rawcliffe Village Hall and St. Michael's Village Hall. All these venues are considered to be good polling places and the most suitable ones available.

## **HAMBLETON AND STALMINE WARD**

The boundary for this ward has not changed and the two polling places currently used are good polling places and considered to be the most suitable for residents. It is proposed to continue using Hambleton Village Hall, Church Lane and Stalmine Village Hall, Carr End Lane, as the two polling places for Hambleton and Stalmine Ward.

## **PILLING WARD**

The boundary for this ward has not changed and the two polling places currently used are good polling places and considered to be the most suitable for residents. It is proposed to continue using Pilling Reading Room and Bowling Club, School Lane and Winmarleigh Village Hall, Broad Lane, as the two polling places for Pilling Ward.

## **PREESALL WARD**

The boundary for this ward has not changed and the two polling places currently used are good polling places and considered to be the most suitable for residents. It is proposed to continue using the Methodist Chapel Meeting Room, Lancaster Road and Preesall Youth & Community Centre, Lancaster Road, as the two polling places for Preesall Ward.

## **WYRESDALE WARD**

The boundary for this ward has not changed and the three polling places currently used are good polling places and considered to be the most suitable for residents. It is proposed to continue using Bleasdale Parish Hall, Forton Playing Field Pavilion, School Lane and Scorton Village Hall, Factory Brow, as the three polling places for Wyresdale Ward.

As part of the review the following four new polling places are proposed:-

Sea Cadet Base, Princes Way, Fleetwood  
Methodist Church Hall, Queensway, Poulton-le-Fylde  
Thornton Little Theatre, Fleetwood Road North, Thornton Cleveleys  
Scout HQ, Kepple Lane, Garstang

The following polling places would no longer be required:-

Teanlowe Day Centre, Queensway, Poulton-le-Fylde  
Church Hall, Cleveleys Park Methodist, West Drive, Thornton Cleveleys  
Mobile Unit, Between 79 & 85 Mayfield Avenue, Thornton Cleveleys  
St. Thomas's Parish Hall, Church Street, Garstang

It is requested that the Returning Officer be authorised to determine any unforeseen changes to polling places which become necessary for future elections.