



Report of:	Meeting	Date
Councillor Michael Vincent, Leader of the Council and Rebecca Huddleston, Chief Executive	Council	23 January 2025

Compulsory Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places within the Borough of Wyre

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 with the desired outcomes:

1.1.1 That all electors within the Borough of Wyre have reasonable and accessible facilities for voting as are practicable in the circumstances.

1.1.2 To ensure that so far as is reasonable and practicable, the polling accessible to all electors, including those who are disabled.

2. Council priorities

2.1 Residents live happier, healthier and safer lives.

3. Recommendations

3.1 That the proposals contained within the Returning Officer's report attached at Appendix 1 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 five years local authorities are required to undertake a review of all polling districts and polling places and the next review must be completed by 31 January 2025. 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.

- 4.2** Members of the public, borough councillors, local political parties, parish/town councils and neighbouring councils affected by the proposals have been consulted regarding the proposals.
- 4.3** The council has powers to change polling places and polling district boundaries but not ward boundaries. These are defined as follows:
- 4.3.1** 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 polling districts under review.
- 4.3.2** When designating polling districts, the Council must:
- Seek to ensure that all electors have such reasonable facilities for voting as are practicable in the circumstances.
 - Seek to ensure that so far as is reasonable and practicable every polling place is accessible to electors who have disabilities.
 -
- 4.3.3** A **polling place** is the building in which a polling station is located.
- 4.3.4** A **polling station** is the actual area where the process of voting takes place and must be located in the polling place designated for the particular polling district.
- 4.4** Unlike polling districts and polling places which are fixed by the local authority, polling stations are chosen by the relevant Returning Officer for the election.

The review process

- 4.5** The council is required to publish a notice of the holding of a review. A copy of this notice can be found at Appendix 2.
- 4.6** 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 all Parish and Town Council notice boards and at public libraries within Wyre.
- 4.7** When undertaking the review of polling districts and polling places, consideration had to be given to the existing Borough, 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 as at 1 October 2024.
- 4.8** 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 Lancaster City Council in respect of the Wyre wards within the parliamentary constituency of Lancaster and Wyre, and the Returning

Officer of Fylde Council in respect of the Wyre wards within the Fylde parliamentary constituency.

- 4.9 The consultation began on Friday 1 November 2024 and ended on Friday 29 November 2024.
- 4.10 The Acting Returning Officer submission and ward maps showing current / proposed polling places can be found at Appendix 3 and 4.
- 4.11 Representations received during the public consultation period can be found at Appendix 5 and 6.

5. Key issues and proposals

- 5.1 This report contains details of any proposed changes to polling districts and polling places.
- 5.2 A schedule of polling districts and polling places has been supplied to members of the council, other political parties, and to persons who have 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.
- 5.3 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.
- 5.4 The proposal is for the Returning Officer's report attached at Appendix 1 be approved at Full Council on 23 January 2025.

6. Alternative options considered and rejected

- 6.1 All options considered can be found at Appendix 1.

Financial, Legal/MO, and Climate Change implications	
Finance	The changes should result in a reduction in costs through the removal of mobile units saving in the region of £12,500 per election on the standard requirements (mobile unit, generator, chemical toilet, etc). This saving will be passed on where the council runs elections on behalf of other

	administrations and will benefit the council itself during the borough elections every four years.
Legal/MO	There is a statutory requirement contained in Section 18b(4) of The Representation of the People Act 1983 to formally designate polling places.
Climate Change	There are no climate change implications associated with this report.

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 a x.

risks/implications	✓ / x
community safety	x
equality and diversity	x
health and safety	x

risks/implications	✓ / x
asset management	x
ICT	x
data protection	x

Processing Personal Data

In addition to considering data protection along with the other risks/ implications, the report author will need to decide if a 'Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA)' is also required. If the decision(s) recommended in this report will result in the collection and processing of personal data for the first time (i.e. purchase of a new system, a new working arrangement with a third party) a DPIA will need to be completed with advice provided by the Data Protection Officer or Deputy Data Protection Officer.

report author	telephone no.	email	date
Jo Bentham	Tel: 01253 887503	jo.bentham@wyre.gov.uk	09/12/2024

List of background papers:		
name of document	date	where available for inspection
Electoral Commission Guidance Review of polling districts, polling places and polling stations (web page)	Live Document	www.electoralcommission.org.uk/review-s-polling-districts-polling-places-and-polling-stations
Consultation responses	Various	Elections Manager: Room 166

List of appendices

- Appendix 1 Schedule of Polling Districts and Polling Places
- Appendix 2 Notice of Review
- Appendix 3 ARO submission 2024
- Appendix 4 Ward maps showing current / proposed polling places, plus new options to explore
- Appendix 5 Consultation responses received via an online survey
- Appendix 6 Consultation responses received via email and by post

This page is intentionally left blank