

Report of:	Managing Director as (Acting) Returning Officer
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Portfolio Leader:	Leader of the Council
Key Decision:	No
Report Track:	Council: 08/01/20

COUNCIL
8 JANUARY, 2020
**OUTCOME OF COMPULSORY REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICTS, POLLING
PLACES AND POLLING STATIONS**

1 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 Council is requested to note the outcome of the compulsory review of UK Parliamentary and local authority polling districts, polling places and polling stations.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 That the review process be noted, and the proposals detailed at Appendix 1 to the report be approved.
- 2.2 That the review investigations should continue with a view to implementing any further possible changes to polling places and polling stations in advance of the next scheduled elections on 7 May, 2020.
- 2.3 That delegated authority be granted to the Managing Director in his capacity as (Acting) Returning Officer to approve changes to polling places and polling stations, as may be required, in between formal reviews.

3 Key Issues and Reasons for Recommendation

- 3.1 The Council, through the (Acting) Returning Officer (Managing Director), is required to undertake periodic compulsory reviews of polling districts and polling places for both Parliamentary and local authority elections. Cannock Chase is fortunate that the Parliamentary Constituency and local authority District boundaries are coterminous enabling the reviews to be combined.
- 3.2 In particular, the Council is required to undertake a compulsory review of UK Parliamentary and local authority polling districts, polling places and polling stations on a 5 year cycle. The governing legislation provides for a 15-month

window between 1 October, 2018 to 31 January, 2020 during which the review must be commenced and concluded. Locally, the review was planned to commence in June, 2019 following the conclusion of the local District and Parish elections on 2 May, 2019. Some preparatory work was undertaken during the 2 May elections period. This included 'real life' working assessments being carried out by Polling Station Inspectors in respect of access and basic suitability requirements to provide additional data to inform the review.

- 3.3 The approach to the review has been to address current needs while being mindful of future electoral requirements. While the formal periodic review is intended primarily in respect of Parliamentary election polling places, Cannock Chase District Council uses the same polling places at local elections. As local elections (District Council; County Council; or Parish Councils), are held every year, the Council already reviews its polling place provision on an annual basis.
- 3.4 By law, for the purpose of taking the poll in England and Wales, the (Acting) Returning Officer is entitled to use free of charge schools maintained or assisted by a local authority. This also applies to those schools that receive grants made out of monies provided by Parliament, including academies and free schools. The County Council sends annual reminders to Head teachers and Chairs of Governing Bodies of the (Acting) Returning Officers' rights in this regard.
- 3.5 While this is generally not popular with Head teachers, provision exists for them to use INSET days in order to minimise the impact of the elections, which normally fall on the first Thursday in May. Therefore, this should be allowed for when planning the academic year. However, there is no automatic requirement to close schools and not all feel the need to do so; that is a decision for the individual Heads.
- 3.6 The Managing Director / (Acting) Returning Officer is mindful of the impact that using school premises can have in some instances, and has requested that their use be given particular attention as part of the review process. Where possible / practicable to do so, a small number of polling places have already been relocated from schools. However, there is a shortage of suitable alternative facilities in the District and, as a result, schools premises remain one of the default locations. It should be noted that using alternative venues is also likely to result in additional costs to the Council. Nonetheless, the Electoral Services team continues to work with schools to try to minimise any inconvenience.
- 3.7 Unfortunately, the period in which the review was planned to be carried out was subject to two unscheduled additional elections – the European Parliamentary Election on 23 May and the UK Parliamentary General Election on 12 December, 2019. Planning and delivery of the unscheduled elections drew resources away from the review of polling places, adversely impacting on the completion of the review. Planning and preparatory work for the December General Election in particular overlapped with a period when it had been intended to investigate the suitability of suggested alternative venues. Nonetheless, some recommended changes are proposed, and it is intended to see through the remainder of the investigation in the new year, with any proposals in place in advance of the next scheduled elections in May, 2020.

- 3.8 This report provides Council with an overview of the processes that have been followed in undertaking the review, and the conclusions and recommendations that have been reached as a result.

4 Relationship to Corporate Priorities

- 4.1 The Council through its democratic process supports all of the Council's Corporate Priorities.

5 Report Detail

- 5.1 The Electoral Administration Act, 2006 (EAA 2006), introduced a duty on all local authorities to review their UK Parliamentary polling districts and polling places at least once every four years. The Electoral Registration and Administration Act, 2013 (ERAA 2013), amended this requirement to bring the reviews in line with revised five year UK Parliamentary terms, with the reviews required to be completed within the period of 16 months beginning from 1 October, 2013, and ending 31 January, 2015, and every fifth year thereafter (i.e. 1 October, 2018 to 31 January, 2020).

- 5.2 Reviews of polling districts and polling places for local government elections are prescribed under Section 31 of the Representation of the People Act, 1983 (RPA 1983). As Cannock Chase has the benefit of a coterminous Parliamentary Constituency and local authority District boundary, the two reviews are able to be conducted simultaneously.

5.3 Definitions

- A polling district is a geographical area created by the sub-division of an electoral area such as a UK Parliamentary constituency, an electoral division; or a District ward, into smaller parts.
- A polling place is the particular building or area in which a polling station will be selected by the (Acting) Returning Officer.
- A polling station is a room or area within the polling place where voting takes place. While polling districts and polling places are determined by Council as part of the review, polling stations are chosen by the (Acting) Returning Officer, and may be redesignated within the polling place without the need for further review.

Practically, the majority of people are only concerned about the location and suitability of polling stations.

5.4 Formal Review Process

There is a prescribed process for conducting the review, which was previously reported to Council, along with a summary of the process. Briefly, the process is as follows:

The Council must give notice of the holding of a review (Completed) The notice must be displayed at the local authority's office and in at least one conspicuous place within the authority, and published on the local authority website. Copies of the notice were also sent to interested parties, including elected representatives (Councillors, MP, MEPs, etc.), political parties, disability groups and other stakeholders to invite comments. A press release was also issued, and social media feeds used to draw attention to the review and the process. A copy of the Notice including the timetable for the process is included at Appendix 2 to the report.

- Consultation (Completed) The consultation stage sought representations and comments on the existing and proposed arrangements for polling districts, if applicable, polling places and polling stations. There are two aspects of this stage:

(i) A compulsory submission from the (Acting) Returning Officer of the UK Parliamentary constituency.

(ii) Submissions from electors and other interested persons and bodies, including elected representatives and those with expertise in relation to access to premises or facilities for disabled people.

In order to maximise feedback, questionnaires were also placed in polling stations inviting comments from electors attending the local government elections on 2 May, 2019.

- The (Acting) Returning Officer's submission (Completed) The (Acting) Returning Officer's submission must comment on both the existing polling stations and the polling stations that would likely be used based on any proposed polling places. This is, effectively, the (Acting) Returning Officer's interim recommendations, which were published on the Council's website and further responses invited in accordance with the published timetable.

A small number of additional comments were received as a result; these have been incorporated as part of the

- Conclusion (This stage) After considering all of the representations, the (Acting) Returning Officer prepares recommendations on the most appropriate polling districts / places / stations, which must be approved by Council.

Any alteration is effective on the date on which the Electoral Registration Officer publishes a notice stating that the alterations have been made. This should be at the same time as the register is revised or a notice of alteration published, as appropriate. As no changes to polling districts are recommended, this is not relevant in this instance.

- Publishing the conclusions of the review Once the Council has agreed the proposals, details of the new polling districts and polling places must be made available to the public, as per the original notice of review. While it is important that steps are taken to make affected electors aware of any changes to the place they must attend to vote, it is sufficient to highlight any changes on the poll card for the next election they are entitled to vote at.

A summary of the conclusions and recommendations from the review is attached as Appendix 1.

- 5.5 The Council holds scheduled elections every year. The Council elects 'by thirds', so it has a local election in three out of every four years. The fourth year ('fallow' year), is when County Council elections take place. Parish Council elections also take place on a four yearly cycle and are combined with local elections in the second year of the Council cycle. In the third year of the cycle, elections for the Staffordshire Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner (Staffordshire PFCC), are combined with local elections. As a result there is an ongoing cycle of review across the duration of every electoral event. Consideration is also given to feedback from polling station staff and others, including members of the public, after every election.
- 5.6 The (Acting) Returning Officer is mindful of a number of new and ongoing residential developments across the district. However, no provision has been made at this stage in terms of revisions to polling districts to account for the potential increased electorates. In the short term, these matters can be addressed, if required, by the (Acting) Returning Officer under delegated powers, with local Ward Councillors being consulted, as appropriate.
- 5.7 In the longer term, the Council has been advised that it is to be subject to a Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) review of its ward boundaries, which could result in changes to the numbers of Councillors; frequency of election; and ward boundaries. However, it is unlikely to have any significant impact on the location of the majority of polling places. The LGBCE review is scheduled to commence in late-2021.
- 5.8 As a result of the initial consultation and subsequent to the publication of the (Acting) Returning Officer's initial recommendations, suggestions for alternative venues were made in respect of 18 of the 53 polling places, covering 77 polling stations. A number of the suggestions were duplicated, for example, Brereton & Ravenhill Parish Hall was suggested as an alternative for 3 different polling places (4 polling stations). Other suggestions fell outside of the ward boundary; some were already used as a polling place; and some were generic and / or costly e.g. 'a portable'. A number of the suggestions had also been investigated previously, but had not been suitable for a variety of reasons, including lack of engagement from the premises operator. Unfortunately, preparations for the General Election overlapped with, and overtook, the investigation period as firm commitments needed to be made in respect of venue bookings for that election.
- 5.9 Consequently, only initial enquiries only were carried out regarding a number of the suggested alternative venues, which may warrant further investigation. It is, therefore, proposed that, where applicable, further investigations be undertaken and concluded in the new year.
- 5.10 As a result of the review, it is proposed to recommend a permanent change to the location of 1 polling place covering 2 polling stations.

Polling stations 29 and 30 share facilities at St. Luke's C of E (C) Primary School, New Penkridge Road, Cannock, which is in the Cannock West (CW) polling district. Consultation during the review led to a suggestion that alternative facilities at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints located further along New Penkridge Road be used instead. Although it was initially difficult to establish contact with the Church, subsequent communication with the

local Bishop has proved to be very positive and the Church indicated that they would be happy to assist at future elections.

- 5.11 The Church was actually used on the occasion of the unscheduled General Election on 12 December, 2019, as the school was unable to accommodate the polling stations due to prior Christmas-related commitments. Feedback from polling staff, electors and the Church itself indicate that this was, generally, a positive and popular move. A small number of complaints were received from people who went to the school to vote and had to be redirected. This was because poll cards had originally been despatched indicating that school would be used as usual. However, as soon as the change of venue was confirmed, all affected electors were written to advising of the change. Signage was also used at the school on polling day to redirect voters to the Church.

6 Implications

6.1 Financial

Undertaking the review will have incurred some additional costs to the authority. However, it is not possible to quantify these fully, as they relate largely to Officer time and have effectively been absorbed as an operational cost of running Electoral Services.

6.2 Legal

It is a statutory requirement to undertake reviews of polling districts and polling places for UK Parliamentary General Elections and local elections.

6.3 Human Resources

None.

6.4 Section 17 (Crime Prevention)

None.

6.5 Human Rights Act

None.

6.6 Data Protection

None.

6.7 Risk Management

There is a small risk of voters being discouraged from voting if they consider polling places and polling stations to be inappropriate, though they do, of course, have the option of a postal vote rather than voting in person. This review seeks to mitigate this risk by ensuring that the venues are conveniently located and fit for purpose.

6.8 Equality & Diversity

Equality and diversity considerations are embedded within the requirements of the review.

6.9 Best Value

None.

7 Appendices to the Report

Appendix 1 (Acting) Returning Officer's Summary Report – Review of Parliamentary Polling Districts, Polling Places and Polling Stations

Appendix 2 Notice of Review of Polling Districts & Polling Places, including timetable for process

Previous Consideration

Compulsory Review of Polling Districts, Polling Places and Polling Stations

Council

23 January, 2019

Background Papers

Section 31 Representation of the People Act, 1983 (RPA 1983)

The Electoral Administration Act, 2006 (EAA 2006)

The Electoral Registration and Administration Act, 2013 (ERAA 2013)

The Electoral Commission Guidance: Reviews of Polling Districts, Polling Places and Polling Stations

ITEM NO. 11.

Cannock Chase Constituency Review of Parliamentary Polling Districts, Polling Places and Polling Stations, 2019

(Schedule A1 to the Representation of the People Act, 1983; and Electoral Administration Act, 2006, as amended by the Electoral Registration and Administration Act, 2013)

Report of the (Acting) Returning Officer for the Cannock Chase Parliamentary Constituency

The (Acting) Returning Officer for the Cannock Chase Parliamentary Constituency and the Cannock Chase District Council has undertaken a review in accordance with the above legislation. This has included consultation with, amongst others: elected representatives; disability groups; other stakeholders; polling station staff at elections; and members of the public. Comments received as part of the initial consultation and, subsequently, following publication of his initial recommendations have been considered by the (Acting) Returning Officer and his final recommendations, are detailed below.

Whilst every effort is made to ensure that polling stations are accessible and convenient to all electors; unfortunately, premises that are entirely suitable in every regard are not always available in the required area, and a location that is 'generally satisfactory' may need to suffice instead. Nonetheless, the situation is monitored on an ongoing basis and, in the event that better alternative facilities become available, the (Acting) Returning Officer will consider and determine their suitability for future use.

Poll. Area	PS No.	Polling Place / Polling Station Name	Comments (Summary of comments received. Premises are, otherwise, considered to be satisfactory for elections purposes.)	Alternative Venue(s) Suggested (if any)	Recommendation
AG1	1	Rugeley Leisure Centre, Burnthill Lane, Rugeley WS15 2HZ	3 positive comments received. Polling station considered easy to find and facilities, access etc. good.	None suggested	Maintain current arrangements
AG2	2, 3	Pear Tree W.M.C., Concert Room, Hardie Avenue, Rugeley WS15 1NT	40 positive comments received. Polling station considered easy to find and facilities, access etc. good.	None suggested	Maintain current arrangements
AG3	4	Chase View C P School, Hillary Crest, Rugeley WS15 1NE	11 generally positive comments received. Polling station considered easy to find. Some concerns about access to (i) car park; (ii) room used as polling station.	None suggested	Maintain current arrangements but speak to school about access concerns.
BR1	5, 6	Redbrook Hayes School, Talbot Road, Brereton, Rugeley WS15 2YP	27 positive comments received. Polling station considered easy to find and facilities, access etc. good. However, 6 of these also suggested moving in order to not disrupt school.	Brereton & Ravenhill Parish Hall Brereton Library	Investigate further. NB: Library forms part of school building.
BR3	7	Hob Hill School, Armitage Lane, Brereton, Rugeley WS15 1ED	29 positive comments received; 1 negative (not explained). Polling station considered easy to find and facilities, access etc. good. 1 suggestion that polling station be moved in order to not disrupt school.	Brereton & Ravenhill Parish Hall.	See above and below. Investigate further to determine if any alternatives are viable.

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Poll. Area	PS No.	Polling Place / Polling Station Name	Comments (Summary of comments received. Premises are, otherwise, considered to be satisfactory for elections purposes.)	Alternative Venue(s) Suggested (if any)	Recommendation
BR4	8	St Joseph's School, Newman Grove, Rugeley WS15 1BN	19 positive comments received. Polling station considered easy to find and facilities, access etc. good. Alternatives suggested in order to not disrupt school.	Brereton Community Hub B&R Parish Hall Brereton Town FC Redbrook Park Community Centre 'Portable on a green area' Wharf Road Judo Club	Investigate further. Follow up with B&R Parish Council and BTFC football club. NB: Hub not big enough for additional poll stns. Portable not practical.
BR5	9	Brereton Community Hub, Armitage Road, Brereton, Rugeley WS15 1DF	10 positive comments received. Polling station considered convenient and easy to find.	None suggested	Maintain current arrangements
CE1	10	Cannock Community Fire Station, Old Hednesford Road, Cannock WS11 6LD	12 positive comments received. Polling station considered convenient and easy to find.	None suggested	Maintain current arrangements
CE2	11, 12	Chadsmoor J M School, Burns Street, Chadsmoor, Cannock WS11 6DR	59 positive comments received; 1 partially negative (not convenient to elector if they didn't have transport). Polling station otherwise considered convenient and easy to find. 1 suggestion that polling station be moved in order to not disrupt school.	Coniston Hall Cannock Chase High Chadsmoor Prog WMC (from Cllr.) Chadsmoor Baptist Church Hall (from Cllr.)	Investigate further.
CE3 CE4	13 14	St Chad's Church Hall, Cannock Road, Chadsmoor, Cannock WS11 5TA	12 positive comments received. Polling station considered convenient and easy to find.	None suggested	Maintain current arrangements
CE5	15	Highfields Centre, 21 Smalley Close, Hightown, Cannock WS11 5TY	30 positive comments received. Polling station considered convenient and easy to find.	None suggested	Maintain current arrangements
CN1	16	Bevan Lee Community Centre, 28 Bevan Lee Road, Cannock WS11 4PS	8 positive comments received. Polling station considered convenient and easy to find.	None suggested	Maintain current arrangements
CN2	17, 18	St. Aidan's Church Hall, Albert Street, Cannock WS11 5JA	30 positive comments received. Polling station considered convenient and easy to find.	None suggested	Maintain current arrangements
CN3	19, 20	Moorhill C.P. School, Moorland Road, Cannock WS11 4NX	40 positive comments received. Polling station considered convenient and easy to find. School Manager would like us to find somewhere else.	Chase Baptist Church (also suggested by 2 Cllrs) School suggested use of on site 'portable classroom' Festival Stadium St. Josephs Church	Investigate further. NB: Previous attempts to use Baptist Church failed because church did not keep lines of communication open.

APPENDIX 1

ITEM NO. 11.10

Poll. Area	PS No.	Polling Place / Polling Station Name	Comments (Summary of comments received. Premises are, otherwise, considered to be satisfactory for elections purposes.)	Alternative Venue(s) Suggested (if any)	Recommendation
CN4	21	West Chadsmoor Family Centre, 98-100 Princess St., Chadsmoor, Cannock WS11 5JT	5 positive comments received. Polling station considered convenient and easy to find.	None suggested	Maintain current arrangements
CS1 CS2	22	Bridgtown Primary School, North Street, Bridgtown, Cannock WS11 0AZ	3 positive comments received. Polling station considered convenient and easy to find.	None suggested	Maintain current arrangements
CS3	23, 24	Longford Primary School, Ascot Drive, Cannock WS11 1PD	40 positive comments received. Polling station considered convenient and easy to find.	St. Stephen's Church. Longford Social Club (out of area). The Longford Centre. Magistrates Courts. School and some electors keen to have poll stn moved because of need to close school.	Investigate further. NB: St. Stephen's Church not big enough for second poll stn. Continue to seek other alternatives
CS4	25	St. Barnabas Church Hall, Mosswood Street, Cannock WS11 0AT	27 generally positive comments received (1 person said it is 'quite a way' from their house and they 'can never find it' but otherwise good).. Polling station considered convenient and easy to find.	None suggested	Maintain current arrangements
CS5	26	Salvation Army Hall, Walhouse Street, Cannock WS11 0DY	4 positive comments received. Polling station considered convenient and easy to find.	None suggested	Maintain current arrangements
CW1	27	St. Stephen's Church Hall, Bideford Way, Cannock WS11 1QD	11 positive comments received. Polling station considered convenient and easy to find.	None suggested	Maintain current arrangements
CW2	28	Meeting Room, Cannock Park Golf Club, Rear of Chase Leisure Centre, Stafford Road, Cannock WS11 2AL	No comments received.	N/A	Maintain current arrangements
CW3	29, 30	St. Luke's Primary School, New Penkridge Road, Cannock WS11 1HN	49 positive comments received; 1 partially negative (individual finds stairs difficult). Polling station considered convenient and easy to find. Headmaster would like us to find somewhere else.	Church of JC of Latter Day Saints (Head's suggestion) St. Lukes Church Hall Cannock Library	Church of JC of Latter-Day Saints used at UKPGE. Excellent facility and Church happy to be used again. Recommend permanent change
CW4	31	Cannock Chase High School, Hednesford Road, Cannock WS11 1JT	11 positive comments received. Polling station considered convenient and easy to find.	None suggested	Maintain current arrangements

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Poll. Area	PS No.	Polling Place / Polling Station Name	Comments (Summary of comments received. Premises are, otherwise, considered to be satisfactory for elections purposes.)	Alternative Venue(s) Suggested (if any)	Recommendation
CW5	32	Cardinal Griffin R.C. School, Cardinal Way, off Stafford Road, Cannock WS11 4AW	3 positive comments received. Polling station considered convenient and easy to find.	None suggested	Maintain current arrangements
EH1	33, 34	Western Springs C.P. School, School Road, Rugeley WS15 2PD	27 positive comments received. Polling station considered convenient and easy to find.	None suggested	Maintain current arrangements
EH2	35	Etching Hill Primary School, Penk Drive North, Etching Hill, Rugeley WS15 2XY	30 positive comments received. Polling station considered convenient and easy to find.	Etchinghill Tennis Club. Community Church, Fernwood Dr./Green Lane. Church of the Holy Spirit, Mount Road	Investigate further.
EH3	36, 37	Etching Hill Primary School, Penk Drive North, Etching Hill, Rugeley WS15 2XY	40 positive comments received. Polling station considered convenient and easy to find. Some suggestions that polling station be moved in order to not disrupt school.	Etchinghill Village Hall	Investigate further.
EH4	38	Slitting Mill Village Hall, Slitting Mill, Rugeley WS15 2UR	12 positive comments received. Polling station considered convenient and easy to find.	None suggested	Maintain current arrangements
EH5	39	Slitting Mill Village Hall, Slitting Mill, Rugeley WS15 2UR	3 positive comments received. Polling station considered convenient and easy to find.	None suggested	Maintain current arrangements
GH1	40, 41	Staffordshire University Academy, View Street Entrance, Hednesford, Cannock WS12 4JH	14 positive comments received. Polling station considered convenient and easy to find. School would like us to find somewhere else for 'safeguarding reasons'.	Poppyfield Primary Academy, Bishop St. (opens Sep., 2019) Belt Rd. WMC (Suggested by school)	Investigate further.
GH2	42, 43	Pye Green Valley C P School, Rose Hill, Hednesford, Cannock WS12 4RT	40 positive comments received. Polling station considered convenient and easy to find.	West Hill School Pye Green Community Centre (from Cllr.)	Investigate further.
HG1	44	Hayes Green Community Centre, Hayes Way, Heath Hayes, Cannock WS12 5YT	26 positive comments received. Polling station considered convenient and easy to find.	None suggested	Maintain current arrangements
HG2	45	Hayes Green Community Centre, Hayes Way, Heath Hayes, Cannock WS12 5YT	7 positive comments received. Polling station considered convenient and easy to find. (1 commented that they were 'pleased that a school was not being used when HGCC available')	None suggested	Maintain current arrangements
HG3	46, 47	Hayes Green Community Centre, Hayes Way, Heath Hayes, Cannock WS12 5YT	46 positive comments received. Polling station considered convenient and easy to find.	Heath Hayes Library	Investigate further.

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ITEM NO. 11.12

Poll. Area	PS No.	Polling Place / Polling Station Name	Comments (Summary of comments received. Premises are, otherwise, considered to be satisfactory for elections purposes.)	Alternative Venue(s) Suggested (if any)	Recommendation
HH1	48	Heath Hayes Academy, Wimblebury Road, Heath Hayes, Cannock WS12 2EP	14 positive comments received; 1 negative (car park too far from polling station; ramp not suitable for wheelchair user). Otherwise, polling station considered convenient and easy to find.	Heath Hayes Library	Investigate further.
HH2	49, 50	Five Ways J M School, Langholm Drive, Heath Hayes, Cannock WS12 2EZ	3 positive comments received. Polling station considered convenient and easy to find. School would like us to find somewhere else for 'safeguarding reasons' but no specific suggestions		Maintain current arrangements
HH3	51	Bourne Methodist, Chapel Street, Heath Hayes, Cannock WS12 3HE	30 positive comments received. Polling station considered convenient and easy to find. NB Cllr. Has advised that Church is to close and we will need to find alternative.	Heath Hayes Library (from Cllr)	Investigate further. NB: Closure deferred.
HH4	52	Wimblebury Community Centre, John Street, Wimblebury, Cannock WS12 2RJ	35 positive comments received. Polling station considered convenient and easy to find.	None suggested	Maintain current arrangements
HN1	53	Aquarius Ballroom (Pisces Suite), Victoria Shopping Park, Hednesford, Cannock WS12 1BT	8 positive comments received. Polling station considered convenient and easy to find.	None suggested	Maintain current arrangements
HN2	54	The Scout Hut, Mavis Road, Hednesford, Cannock WS12 4BS	No comments received. Known that access ramp is a bit steep and tight turn for wheelchair users. No evidence though that this manifested as a problem.	N/A	Maintain current arrangements
HN3	55	Portable Polling Station, Adj. to Midland Heart, School Court, Station Road, Hednesford, Cannock WS12 4UA	10 positive comments received. Polling station considered convenient and easy to find.	None suggested	Maintain current arrangements
HN4	56, 57	Pye Green Community Centre, Bradbury Lane, Pye Green, Hednesford, Cannock WS12 4EP	12 positive comments received. Polling station considered convenient and easy to find.	None suggested	Maintain current arrangements
HN5	58	Portable Polling Station, Car park opp. 79 Brindley Heath Road, Hednesford, Cannock WS12 4DR	No comments received.	N/A	Maintain current arrangements
HS1	59, 60	St Peter's Church Hall, Church Hill, Hednesford, Cannock WS12 1BD	2 positive comments received. Polling station considered convenient and easy to find.	None suggested	Maintain current arrangements

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Poll. Area	PS No.	Polling Place / Polling Station Name	Comments (Summary of comments received. Premises are, otherwise, considered to be satisfactory for elections purposes.)	Alternative Venue(s) Suggested (if any)	Recommendation
HS2	61	St Joseph's R C School, Hill Top, Hednesford, Cannock WS12 1DE	20 positive comments received. Polling station considered convenient and easy to find. 2 comments re parking: (i) 'long walk across road if you have mobility issues'; (ii) 'not good for large vehicles'	None suggested	Maintain current arrangements
HS3	62, 63	St Joseph's R C School, Hill Top, Hednesford, Cannock WS12 1DE	29 positive comments received. Polling station considered convenient and easy to find.	Our Lady of Lourdes Church Hall (also from Cllr.) NB: Church Hall has regular Thursday bookings.	Maintain current arrangements.
NC1	64	Jerome CP School, Hussey Road, Norton Canes, Cannock WS11 9TP	25 positive comments received. Polling station considered convenient and easy to find.	None suggested	Maintain current arrangements
NC2	65, 66	Norton Canes Methodist Church Hall, Poplar Street, Norton Canes, Cannock WS11 9SG	No comments received.	N/A	Maintain current arrangements
NC3	67, 68	Norton Canes Community Centre, Brownhills Road, Norton Canes, Cannock WS11 9SF	2 positive comments received. Polling station considered convenient and easy to find.	None suggested	Maintain current arrangements
RR1	69	Portable Polling Station, Beadesert View, Rawnsley WS12 1LA	7 generally positive comments received; 3 negative (access ramp – too steep; too narrow; difficult to get wheelchair onto it) . Polling station considered convenient and easy to find.	Cannock & Rugeley Cricket Club	Investigate further.
RR2	70	Hazel Slade C P School, Cannock Wood Street, Hazel Slade, Cannock WS12 0PN	30 positive comments received. Polling station generally considered convenient and easy to find. Some suggestions that polling station be moved in order to not disrupt school.	Non-specific: 'Pub, library, supermarket';	Maintain current arrangements
RR3	71	Cannock Wood & Gentleshaw Village Hall, Buds Road, Cannock Wood, Rugeley WS15 4AW	11 positive comments received. Polling station considered convenient and easy to find.	None suggested	Maintain current arrangements
RR4	72	Prospect Village Hall, Williamson Avenue, Prospect Village, Cannock WS12 0QF	No comments received.	N/A	Maintain current arrangements
WS1	73	Methodist Rooms, Lichfield Street, Rugeley WS15 2EH	30 positive comments received. Polling station considered convenient and easy to find.	None suggested	Maintain current arrangements
WS2	74, 75	Rugeley Rose Theatre & Community Hall, Taylors Lane, Rugeley WS15 2AA	18 positive comments received. 2 pointed out steps as potential trip hazard. Polling station considered convenient and easy to find.	1 suggested 'Pub' (didn't specify which)	Maintain current arrangements
WS3	76	Western Springs C.P. School, School Road, Rugeley WS15 2PD	10 positive comments received. Polling station considered convenient and easy to find.	None suggested	Maintain current arrangements

Poll. Area	PS No.	Polling Place / Polling Station Name	Comments (Summary of comments received. Premises are, otherwise, considered to be satisfactory for elections purposes.)	Alternative Venue(s) Suggested (if any)	Recommendation
WS4	77	The Bungalow, The Hart School, Penkridge Bank Road, Rugeley WS15 2UE	1 positive comments received. Polling station considered convenient and easy to find.	None suggested	Maintain current arrangements

Key to Polling Districts

AG	Hagley	CW	Cannock West	HN	Hednesford North
BR	Brereton & Ravenhill	EH	Etching Hill & The Heath	HS	Hednesford South
CE	Cannock East	GH	Hednesford Green Heath	NC	Norton Canes
CN	Cannock North	HG	Hawks Green	RR	Rawnsley
CS	Cannock South	HH	Heath Hayes East & Wimblebury	WS	Western springs

ITEM NO. 11.



Notice of Review of Polling Districts & Polling Places

Notice is hereby given that, in accordance with statutory requirements, Cannock Chase Council is conducting a review of polling districts, polling places and polling stations.

We are looking for feedback on the suitability of the facilities that are currently used, any proposed changes or any related matters. Particular reference will be made to location and accessibility issues. The Council would welcome the views of local electors as well as persons or organisations with particular expertise in relation to access to premises or facilities for persons who have different forms of disability.

Persons or bodies making representations should state the reasons why a particular location is not suitable and, if possible, suggest an alternative, more suitable venue that may be used instead. The (Acting) Returning Officer will then comment on the suitability of polling stations within each polling district and comments may be made on the proposals.

A form / questionnaire for completion can be downloaded below.

A list of the locations of the polling stations used at the recent District and European Parliamentary elections is also available to download.

Comments and representations can be submitted to: Polling Review, Electoral Services, Cannock Chase District Council, Civic Centre, Beecroft Road, Cannock WS11 1BG.

Or by email to: ElectionsOffice@cannockchasedc.gov.uk

All comments and representations must be submitted by 13 September, 2019.

Publication of Notice of Review	9 August, 2019
Consultation period ends	13 September, 2019
Review of consultation feedback / (Acting) Returning Officer's proposals	16 September – 18 October, 2019
Consultation on (A)RO's proposals	21 October – 15 November, 2019
Consideration of further feedback and report to Council	8 January, 2020

Tony McGovern
(Acting) Returning Officer