

## **COUNCIL 29<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2023**

**Governance and Business Committee, 30<sup>th</sup> October 2023**

### **23 REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICTS AND POLLING PLACES**

The Chief Executive submitted a written report which outlined that the Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013 required local authorities to review their polling districts and polling places for UK Parliamentary constituencies in their area at least once every five years. The Returning Officer must comment during any review on both existing polling stations and the polling stations that would likely be used if any new proposal for polling places were accepted. The report provided details of the steps taken to review the polling districts, polling places and polling stations across the borough.

The legislation provided no role for the Electoral Commission in the review process; however, it did provide for a role after the conclusion of the review. Once Calderdale had published the results of its review, representations may be made to the Commission to reconsider any polling districts and polling places. The Commission may direct a local authority to make any alterations to the polling places they considered necessary and if the alterations were not made within two months, the Commission may make the alterations themselves.

The 2013 Act introduced a statutory requirement for the review of polling districts, places, and stations, which must be started and completed within a period of 16 months that started on 1<sup>st</sup> October of every fifth year after 1<sup>st</sup> October 2013. Any suggestion for changes to polling stations must take account of the requirements for access to premises for electors with disabilities.

**\*RESOLVED that it be recommended to Council that the:**

**(a) amendments as contained in Appendix 2 of the Chief Executive's written report be approved; and**

**(b) existing Polling Plan contained in Appendix 1 of the Chief Executive's written report be amended to incorporate those revisions.**