COUNCIL

Polling District and Polling Place Review 2011

Report of Charlie Parker, Chief Executive

Portfolio Holder : Cllr Jim McMahon, Leader, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for External Relations, AGMA and Local Democracy

9 November 2011

Officer Contact : Justine Davie, Elections and Land Charges Manager Ext. 4719

Purpose of Report
To inform the Council of a review of polling districts and polling places as required under the Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places (Parliamentary Elections) Regulation 2006. The report provides the background to the review, the consultation process, summary of comments and final recommendations.

Recommendations
To approve the polling district arrangements for Oldham, in particular the proposed changes to polling districts and polling places in Chadderton Central, Coldhurst, Hollinwood, Medlock Vale, Werneth, Saddleworth North, Saddleworth South, St James, St Marys, Failsworth East and Failsworth West.
Polling District and Polling Place Review 2011

1 Background

1.1 Section 16 of the Electoral Administration Act 2006, which came into force on 1st January 2007, introduced a number of changes to the Representation of the People Act 1983, in particular the way in which reviews of polling districts and polling places must be undertaken.

1.2 To comply with the Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places (Parliamentary Elections) Regulations 2006, every council in England and Wales has to carry out a review every four years. In Oldham the last review was in 2007 therefore another review has to be carried out and completed by 31st December 2011.

2 Current Position

2.1 The review commenced on 1st August 2011 and comments were invited on the current polling districts and places. The invitation was sent to all local councillors, Members of Parliament, presiding officers, owners of premises used as polling stations and other interested stakeholders. Details were also sent to Access for All, Oldham Interfaith Forum and live.co.uk. Details on the current arrangements were also posted on the Council’s website. Comments were required by 31st August 2011.

2.2 Comments were received and processed and incorporated into draft proposals.

2.3 The draft proposals were submitted to Group Leaders on 30th September and then sent to local councillors, Members of Parliament and other interested stakeholders on 4th October for comments. Comments were required by 21st October 2011.

3 Proposals

3.1 Comments have been received from a number of ward councillors on the draft proposals.

3.2 All of the comments received on the draft proposals have been considered by the Returning Officer and the recommendations for each ward is attached at Appendix A.

3.3 The recommended changes will be discussed at Group Leaders on 3 November and any changes will be reported to Council on 9 November.

4 Financial Implications

4.1 There will be some cost savings at elections due to the reduction in the number of polling stations. This will not only reduce the hire costs, including
two temporary polling stations, but will also reduce the number of staff required. The savings will be in the region of £8,000.

5 Legal Services Comments
5.1 None

6 IT Implications
6.1 None

7 Property Implications
7.1 None

8 Procurement Implications
8.1 None

16 Key Decision
16.1 No

17 Forward Plan Reference
17.1 N/A

18 Background Papers
18.1 The following is a list of background papers on which this report is based in accordance with the requirements of Section 100(1) of the Local Government Act 1972. It does not include documents which would disclose exempt or confidential information as defined by the Act:

File Ref : EC19/2010

Name of File : Electoral Commission Review of Polling Districts, Polling Places and Polling Stations

Records held in Room 222 Department Elections and Land Charges Office

Officer Name : Justine Davie

Contact No : 0161 770 4719

19 Appendices
19.1 Appendix A – Proposals for Changes to Polling Places and Districts

Appendix B – Ward Maps showing polling districts, polling places, electorate figures and changes included in the Final Proposals