

REPORT OF GENERAL PURPOSES AND LICENSING COMMITTEE

(Meeting held on 13 September 2019)

1. GAMBLING POLICY – REVIEW OF CONSULTATION RESPONSES (MINUTE 14)

The Committee has considered a review of the Council's Gambling Policy. The Gambling Act 2005 required a review of the Council Statement of Gambling Principles every three years.

A draft Policy had been presented to the Committee in June 2018 and a consultation exercise had taken place between 10 May 2019 and 26 July 2019. The Policy had been revised to take account of new legislation but the amendments were minor.

Eight responses were received during the consultation period which were set out in Appendix 2 to the Report. Responses covered a variety of areas together with general support of the Policy from two Parish Councils.

Members noted the consultation undertaken and responses received, and having regard to the suggested amendments to the revised policy, (a copy of which can be found here, <http://www.newforest.gov.uk/article/6547/Gambling-Act-2005>), they supported the document.

RECOMMENDED:

That the revised Statement of Gambling Principles in relation to the Gambling Act 2005 be approved.

2. REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICTS AND PLACES (MINUTE 15)

The Committee has considered the proposals of the Working Party set up by the Committee at the June meeting, to review Polling Districts and Polling Places within the New Forest District, in compliance with the Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013.

The Council was required by law to complete a review of the Polling Districts and Polling Places within the District by the end of 2019.

The Working Party invited comments from all District Councillors, Parish and Town Councils and the District's two MP's, as well as persons or groups who had particular expertise in relation to access to premises or facilities for persons who had different forms of disability. The closing date for representations was 18 August 2019. Those making comments had been asked to identify alternative places to hold future elections if they were proposing closure of a particular Polling Station. Nine recommendations for change had been raised as a result of the representations.

40 responses to the consultation had been received, of which 28 were received from parents, the pre-school and Town Councillors in relation to Lydlynch Infant School, Totton. The Working Party had recommended that transfer of the Polling station from Lydlynch to the Cricket Club and the Committee Members supported this.

The Chairman reminded the Committee that the Working Group had made its deliberations after reviewing extensive information and noted that costings ranged from £2.50 per voter up to approximately £24 per voter at some Polling Stations, and a common-sense balance had to be struck ensuring that the solutions were practical and reasonable.

The Committee noted that the current Electoral Review affecting the District would not be implemented until 2023 and therefore a further review of Polling Districts and Polling Places would need to be undertaken around that time.

RECOMMENDED:

That it be a recommendation to the Council that:

- (1) That with effect from the from the publication of the Revised Register of Electors in December 2019:***
 - (a) The Reading Room Polling Place and Polling Station be discontinued; and***
 - (b) Existing Polling District BG (approximately 128 electors) be transferred to Polling District BH and the electors allocated to Bransgore Village Hall;***
 - (c) The Calmore Village Hall Polling Place and Polling Station be discontinued with electors being transferred to Netley Marsh Community Hall Woodlands Road; and***
 - (d) The existing NA Polling District (approximately 316 electors) be transferred and amalgamated to Polling District NB as a single polling district (approximately 1692 electors);***
 - (e) The Lydlynch Pre School be discontinued as Polling Pace and Polling Station and the electors allocated to the Totton and Eling Cricket Club building in Bramtoco Way, Totton;***
 - (f) The Sandleheath Methodist Church Hall, Alderholt Road, Sandleheath be discontinued as a Polling Place and Polling Station and the electors transferred to the Village Hall, Main Road, Sandleheath;***
 - (g) The Victoria Rooms, Bridge Street, Fordingbridge be discontinued as a Polling Place and Polling Station and the electors transferred to the Town Hall, Fordingbridge;***
 - (h) Polling District DN (approximately 21 electors) is amalgamated with Polling District as a single DL polling district with approximately 131 electors.***
- (2) That all other Polling Districts, Polling Places and Polling Stations remain the same as outlined in Appendix 2 to the report.***
- (3) That the Returning Officer be authorised to designate alternative Polling Places and Polling Stations should the need arise prior to the publication of the revised Register in December 2019***

(4) That the Council Scheme of Delegation of Powers to Officers, that are the responsibility of the Council, be amended to delegate the following power:-

Source	Power Delegated	Delegated to
Representation of the People Act 1983	To designate alternative Polling Places and Polling Stations if required at short notice under Section 18 of the Act, in accordance with the Guidance Issue by the Electoral Commission	Returning Officer or acting Returning Officer or Deputy Returning Officer

**CLLR S J CLARKE
CHAIRMAN**