



Ref No: EQ570260765

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Title of report: Polling District Review 2023-25

Report : The report sets out proposed changes to a number of polling districts and polling places as part of a review carried out under Section 17 of the Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013.

The proposals have taken account of the representations received during a public consultation and have attempted to ensure that there is a balance of the electorate within each polling district and that polling places are convenient and easily accessible for voters.

Council is asked to agree the polling districts and polling places amendments, as set out in the attached schedules.

What evidence/data is being used to support this equality analysis? Please select all that apply.: Findings from surveys, focus groups & consultations, Information from voluntary & community sector (e.g ISCRE, ICVS), Review and research for each polling station within the Borough.

Service area: Legal & Democratic

Corporate Manager: Shirley Jarlett

Corporate Manager email: Shirley.Jarlett@ipswich.gov.uk

Links to supporting documents where available:

Please upload any supporting documents: Appendix 3_Schedule of proposals.docx, Appendix 2_Summary of proposals.docx

What is proposed?: Changes to the location of 3 polling stations within the Borough.

Why are the changes being introduced?: To improve the facilities and accessibility for voters and staff working in a polling station.

What evidence is being used to support this Equality Impact Assessment, and how is it being used?: Feedback from public and stakeholders from the 6 week consultation period. Guidance from the Electoral Commission regarding accessibility for polling stations. Legal considerations about complying with accessibility requirements for a polling station.

How will this change be implemented?: If agreed at Council on 24 January 2024, affected voters will be informed of the change of location to their allocated polling station via a poll card in March 2024, ready for the next scheduled election on 2nd May 2024. The poll card will give details about the new location and provide options for voters to use the postal or proxy voting methods if they do not wish to vote in person at the new polling station location. The polling stations "accessibility look-up" on the IBC website will be updated to reflect available accessible facilities at the new locations.

Age: Positive

Please provide an explanation of this impact and actions to mitigate any adverse impact, or further promote positive impact.: The change of polling station location will improve the accessibility and facilities at the venue for all adults over the age of 18 years old. For older people (or any adult) who may find the distance from their home to the polling station has increased due to this change, other voting methods exist as an alternative to in-person voting: postal or proxy voting.

Disability: Positive

Please provide an explanation of this impact and actions to mitigate any adverse impact, or further promote positive impact.: The purpose of changing these polling station locations is to improve the accessibility and facilities at the venue for all voters, including those with physical, mental and/or sensory disabilities. If the change of polling station located is not acceptable for individuals, other voting methods exist as an alternative to in-person voting: postal or proxy voting.

Marriage & Civil Partnership: No impact

Please provide an explanation of this impact and actions to mitigate any adverse impact, or further promote positive impact.: No adverse changes identified that impact on the marital status of adult voters.

Race: No impact

Please provide an explanation of this impact and actions to mitigate any adverse impact, or further promote positive impact.: No adverse changes identified that impact on the race of adult voters.

Pregnancy & Maternity: No impact

Please provide an explanation of this impact and actions to mitigate any adverse impact, or further promote positive impact.: No adverse changes identified that impact on the pregnancy or maternity of adult voters.

Religion or Belief: No impact

Please provide an explanation of this impact and actions to mitigate any adverse impact, or further promote positive impact.: No adverse changes identified that impact on the religious belief of adult voters. Note: a privacy area is provided in all polling stations, including new locations, for individuals who wish to have their ID check undertaken in a private area, for reasons such as wearing a religious face / head covering.

Gender Reassignment: No impact

Please provide an explanation of this impact and actions to mitigate any adverse impact, or

further promote positive impact.: No adverse changes identified that impact on adult voters undergoing gender reassignment. Note: a privacy area is provided in all polling stations, including new locations, for individuals who wish to have their ID check undertaken in a private area.

Sex: No impact

Please provide an explanation of this impact and actions to mitigate any adverse impact, or further promote positive impact.: No adverse changes identified that impact on the sex of adult voters.

Sexual Orientation: No impact

Please provide an explanation of this impact and actions to mitigate any adverse impact, or further promote positive impact.: No adverse changes identified that impact on the sexual orientation of adult voters.

I can confirm the report does meet Ipswich Borough Council's equality objectives: I can confirm the report does meet Ipswich Borough Council's equality objectives

The report helps us to 'eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment & victimisation' in the following way(s): Prevents the disenfranchisement of voters due to their protected characteristic.

The report helps us to 'advance equality of opportunity...' in the following way(s): Provides equal access to polling stations for all voters regardless of their protected characteristic.

The policy helps us to 'foster good relations...' in the following way(s): Provides the best facilities and access possible to polling stations for all voters, including those with a protected characteristic.

The new provisions will be reviewed in the following way(s): The first scheduled election following the implementation of these polling station changes will be held on 2nd May 2024. Voters will have the opportunity to feedback on their new polling station location. Polling station staff and inspectors will be required to complete logs and checklists, which include access and facilities at the locations. Voter turnout for these locations will be considered to see if it has been increased / reduced.
