



Chester-le-Street District Council

Report to: Council

Date of Meeting: 20 November 2008

Report from: Chief Executive

Title of Report: Amendments to the Schedule of Polling Districts, Polling Places and Polling Stations

Agenda Item Number:

1. Purpose and Summary

- 1.1 The Council is required to produce each year lists of Parliamentary and Local Government electors and these are published on the 1 December in the form of the Register of Electors. Currently each of the seven district authorities in the County publishes their own Electoral Register. As a consequence of local government reorganisation, with effect from 1 April 2009 there will be only one Electoral Register covering the whole of the County Council area.
- 1.2 Currently each of the seven district authorities is responsible for identifying their own Polling District letters that make up their Register of Electors. With the need to amalgamate all of the Registers on 1 April 2009 it will be necessary to revise all of the Polling District letters in order to avoid duplication of the letters.
- 1.3 This exercise has been undertaken by the Electoral Officers Workstream when the opportunity was also taken to make the Polling District letters more identifiable with Parliamentary Constituencies.
- 1.4 It is proposed that the revised Polling District letters be implemented by each district authority in the County for the Registers of Electors to be published on 1 December 2008, thus avoiding the need for a new Register to be published for the County area on 1 April 2009.
- 1.5 At its meeting on 29 November 2007 the Council agreed to a revised schedule of Polling Districts, Polling Places and Polling Stations, following a review and it will be necessary to formally amend this schedule to reflect the new Polling District letters.

1.6 A schedule listing the current and revised Polling District letters is appended to this report.

1.7 It is recommended:

That the schedule of Polling Districts, Polling Places and Polling Stations agreed at the Council Meeting on 29 November 2007 be amended to reflect the new Polling District letters detailed on the appendix to the report.

2. Consultation

2.1 The matter has been raised with and the suggested course of action agreed with representatives of the Electoral Commission and Durham County Council.

3. Transition Plan and People and Place Priority

3.1 No implications

4. Implications

4.1 Financial Implications and Value for Money Statement

There are no financial implications.

4.2 Local Government Reorganisation Issues

With effect from 1 April 2009 there will be one Register of Electors for the County Council area. By reviewing the Polling District letters at this time it will avoid the need to republish the Register of Electors on 1 April 2009.

4.3 Legal

There is a legal requirement for the Council to produce annual lists of Parliamentary and Local Government electors. This requirement is met by publication of the Register of Electors.

4.4 Personnel

There are no personnel implications directly associated with this report. The action proposed is, however, the first step towards amalgamating the electoral services sections across the County.

4.5 Other Services

There are no implications to other services.

4.6 Diversity

There are no diversity issues.

4.7 Risk

Failure to review the Polling District letters at this time will result in a review having to be undertaken immediately after 1 April 2009 and the publication of a revised Register of Electors for the whole County area.

4.8 Crime and Disorder

There are no crime and disorder issues.

4.9 Data Quality

Every care has been taken in the development of this report to ensure that the information and data used in its preparation and the appendices attached are accurate, timely, consistent and comprehensive. The council's Data Quality Policy has been complied with in producing this report.

4.10 Other Implications

There are no other implications.

5. Recommendations

5.1 It is recommended:

That the schedule of Polling Districts, Polling Places and Polling Stations agreed at the Council Meeting on 29 November 2007 be amended to reflect the new Polling District letters detailed on the appendix to the report.

6. Background Papers/ Documents referred to

6.1 Schedule of Polling Districts, Polling Places and Polling Stations

AUTHOR NAME
DESIGNATION
DATE OF REPORT
VERSION NUMBER

Colin Turnbull
Democratic Services Officer
7 November 2008
1

This page is intentionally left blank