

<b>Subject:</b>	Ward Boundary Review – Allocation of Polling Districts	<b>Status:</b>	For Publication
<b>Report to:</b>	Full Council	<b>Date:</b>	15 <sup>th</sup> November 2023
<b>Report of:</b>	Chief Executive	<b>Lead Member:</b>	Environment and Corporate Services
<b>Key Decision:</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Forward Plan <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	General Exception <input type="checkbox"/>	Special Urgency <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Equality Impact Assessment:</b>	Required: No	Attached: No	No
<b>Biodiversity Impact Assessment:</b>	Required: No	Attached: No	No
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## 1. RECOMMENDATION(S)

- 1.1 Full Council is requested to approve the recommended new polling districts following the ward boundary review.
- 1.2 Full Council is requested to approve delegation to the Chief Executive as Returning Officer to allocate polling stations for the new polling districts and in the event that any polling station becomes unavailable or found to be unsuitable in the run up to an election, to appoint a new polling station and to make this change on a permanent basis following the election as necessary.

## 2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 2.1 Following completion of the ward boundary review, which reduced the number of wards from 14 to 10, it is necessary to draw up new polling district boundaries.
- 2.2 The new polling district boundaries need to take account of county divisions to ensure they all align.

## 3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 In August 2023, the independent Local Government Boundary Commission for England published its final recommendations report for new electoral arrangements for Rosendale Borough Council.
- 3.2 Electoral reviews are carried out to see whether the boundaries of wards within a local authority need to be altered to ensure effective local government and electoral equality. Electoral equality is achieved when all councillors represent roughly the same number of electors.
- 3.3 Rosendale Borough Council had not previously been reviewed since 2000 and the Commission decided that due to the electoral imbalance of the current wards it needed to conduct a review.
- 3.4 The Commission has decided that Rosendale should have 30 councillors representing 10 three-councillor wards across the borough. These new wards will be used for the all-out elections in May 2024.
- 3.5 Based on the final recommendations a review of polling district boundaries has been undertaken ensuring they do not cross any of the county divisions. This means that some polling districts have much smaller electorates than others.
- 3.6 The new Electoral Register must be published by 1 December 2023 with the new boundaries included.

## 4. DETAILS

- 4.1 The proposed polling district codes are (county division and parliamentary constituency in brackets):

- 4.2 Bacup Ward: BA1 (Rossendale East, Rossendale & Darwen), BA2 (Rossendale East, Rossendale & Darwen), BA3 (Rossendale East, Rossendale & Darwen), BA4 (Whitworth & Bacup, Rossendale & Darwen)
- 4.3 Britannia & Lee Mill Ward: BL1 (Rossendale East, Rossendale & Darwen), BL2 (Whitworth & Bacup, Rossendale & Darwen), BL3 (Rossendale East, Rossendale & Darwen), BL4 (Rossendale East, Rossendale & Darwen), BL5 (Whitworth & Bacup, Rossendale & Darwen)
- 4.4 Goodshaw & Cribden Ward: GC1 (Mid-Rossendale, Rossendale & Darwen), GC2 (Mid-Rossendale, Rossendale & Darwen), GC3 (Mid-Rossendale, Rossendale & Darwen)
- 4.5 Greenfield & Eden Ward: GE1 (Rossendale West, Hyndburn), GE2 (Rossendale South, Hyndburn), GE3 (Rossendale South, Hyndburn), GE4 (Rossendale South, Rossendale & Darwen), GE5 (Rossendale South, Rossendale & Darwen), GE6 (Rossendale South, Rossendale & Darwen)
- 4.6 Hareholme & Waterfoot Ward: HW1 (Mid-Rossendale, Rossendale & Darwen), HW2 (Mid-Rossendale, Rossendale & Darwen), HW3 (Mid-Rossendale, Rossendale & Darwen), HW4 (Mid-Rossendale, Rossendale & Darwen)
- 4.7 Haslingden Ward: HA1 (Rossendale West, Hyndburn), HA2 (Rossendale West, Hyndburn), HA3 (Rossendale West, Hyndburn), HA4 (Rossendale South, Hyndburn)
- 4.8 Helmshore Ward: HS1 (Rossendale West, Hyndburn), HS2 (Rossendale West, Rossendale & Darwen), HS3 (Rossendale West, Rossendale & Darwen), HS4 (Rossendale West, Rossendale & Darwen)
- 4.9 Longholme Ward: LH1 (Mid-Rossendale, Rossendale & Darwen), LH2 (Rossendale South, Rossendale & Darwen), LH3 (Rossendale South, Rossendale & Darwen), LH4 (Rossendale South, Rossendale & Darwen), LH5 (Mid-Rossendale, Rossendale & Darwen)
- 4.10 Whitworth Ward: WW1 (Whitworth & Bacup, Rossendale & Darwen), WW2 (Whitworth & Bacup, Rossendale & Darwen), WW3 (Whitworth & Bacup, Rossendale & Darwen), WW4 (Whitworth & Bacup, Rossendale & Darwen)
- 4.11 Whitewell & Stacksteads: WS1 (Rossendale East, Rossendale & Darwen), WS2 (Rossendale East, Rossendale & Darwen), WS3 (Rossendale East, Rossendale & Darwen), WS4 (Rossendale East, Rossendale & Darwen), WS5 (Rossendale East, Rossendale & Darwen), WS6 (Rossendale East, Rossendale & Darwen)
- 4.12 To delegate to the Returning Officer authority to approve the polling stations and in the event that any polling station becomes unavailable or found to be unsuitable in the run up to an election, to appoint a new polling station and to make this change on a permanent basis following the election as necessary.

## 5. RISK

All the issues raised and the recommendation(s) in this report involve risk considerations as set out below:

- 5.1 The Council is required to designate polling districts and polling places to effectively conduct the elections. By agreeing the recommendations in this report, the Council will be meeting its statutory duties.

## 6. FINANCE

- 6.1 There are no financial applications arising from this report as it stands. Any additional polling districts, places or stations will incur further costs for the Council as these will need to be serviced at each election.

## 7. LEGAL

- 7.1 A Polling District is a geographical area created by the sub-division of an electoral area i.e. a UK Parliamentary constituency, a European Parliamentary electoral region, a Ward or an electoral division.
- 7.2 A Polling Place is a geographical area in which a polling station is located.

There is no legal definition of what a Polling Place is; it could be defined as tightly as a particular building or as widely as the entire polling district.

- 7.3 A Polling Station is the actual area where the process of voting takes place and must be located within the Polling Place designated for the particular Polling District.
- 7.4 The Council's functions relating to a review of polling districts and places are designated by law as non-executive functions and so must be agreed by Full Council.

**8. POLICY AND EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

- 8.1 As far as is reasonable and practicable the polling places are accessible to the disabled. Where new polling places are being used, the accessibility has been assessed as being suitable by electoral officers.
- 8.2. Polling places will be kept under constant review and equality considerations will form part of the process.
- 8.3 For those less able to vote in person at a polling station the option of voting by post or proxy will be an option.
- 8.4 A lengthy consultation exercise has been undertaken by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England which many stakeholders have taken part in.

**9. REASON FOR DECISION**

Following the boundary review by the independent Local Government Boundary Commission for England, it is now necessary to review the polling district boundaries ensuring they do not cross any of the county divisions. This is in readiness for the publication of the Electoral register and the May 2024 elections.

Background Papers	
Document	Place of Inspection
Relevant maps	<a href="#">Review of Ward Boundaries by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England   Ward Boundary Review   Rossendale Borough Council</a>