

Subject:	Polling District and Places Review – Final Report	Status:	For Publication
Report to:	Council	Date:	11 th December 2013
Report of:	Chief Executive as (Acting) Returning Officer – Parliamentary Elections	Portfolio Holder:	Customers, Legal and Licensing
Key Decision:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Forward Plan <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	General Exception <input type="checkbox"/>	Special Urgency <input type="checkbox"/>
Community Impact Assessment:	Required: Yes	Attached:	Yes
Biodiversity Impact Assessment	Required: No	Attached:	N/A
Contact Officer:	Joanne Smith	Telephone:	01706 252445
Email:	joannesmith@rossendalebc.gov.uk		

1.	RECOMMENDATION(S)
1.1	That full Council resolve the amendments to polling district boundaries as listed in the report at paragraph 5.7.
1.2	That full Council resolve the merging of polling districts as listed in the report at paragraph 5.7.
1.3	That full Council resolve the re-naming of polling districts as listed in the report at paragraph 5.7.
1.4	That full Council resolve recommendations to the (Acting) Returning Officer regarding the location of polling stations and listed in the report at paragraph 5.7.

2. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 2.1 To seek approval of the proposals following the Review of Polling Districts and Polling places as required by the Electoral Administration Act 2006.

3. CORPORATE PRIORITIES

- 3.1 The matters discussed in this report impact directly on the following corporate priorities:
- **Regenerating Rossendale:** This priority focuses on regeneration in its broadest sense, so it means supporting communities that get on well together, attracting sustainable investment, promoting Rossendale, as well as working as an enabler to promote the physical regeneration of Rossendale.
 - **Responsive Value for Money Services:** This priority is about the Council working collaboratively, being a provider, procurer and a commissioner of services that are efficient and that meet the needs of local people.

4. RISK ASSESSMENT IMPLICATIONS

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

The review is a statutory requirement and the council will be in breach if a review is not undertaken.

5. BACKGROUND AND OPTIONS

- 5.1 Under the Representation of the People Act 1983, the Council has a duty to divide the borough into polling districts and to designate a polling place for each district. It also has to keep the polling places and polling districts under review.
- 5.2 The Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013 introduced a change to the timing of compulsory reviews of UK parliamentary polling districts and polling places. The current compulsory review was to be started and completed between 1 October 2013 and 31 January 2015. Because the Act is set out in relation to Parliamentary elections the Deputy Returning Officer will be named on documents. Subsequent compulsory reviews must be started and completed within the period of 16 months that starts on 1 October of every fifth year after 1 October 2013.

A polling district is a section of a Ward and a polling place must be allocated for each polling district. A polling place can be a geographical area, or it can be a specific building or premises. If no specific polling place is designated then the polling district will be the polling place by default. In addition, and unless there are special circumstances that lead the authority to determine otherwise, each parish must be in a separate polling district.

Councillors should be aware of the distinction between polling districts, places and polling stations. The designation of polling districts and places are a matter for the Council, whereas decisions regarding polling stations are the remit of the Returning Officer. The Returning Officer is responsible for deciding the arrangement and number of polling stations within each Ward. In doing so she has to have regard for the number of electors, type of election, availability of staff and equipment, previous voter turnout and any other relevant matters. Consequently, the detailed arrangements at each Ward may vary from election to election. The Returning Officer is grateful for comments and suggestions regarding polling stations which will assist her in making these provisions.

The Review began with a Notice being displayed around Council offices, on the Council's website and a copy published in a press release. This explained who is to be consulted, where documents relating to the Review are available and invite representation and comments from interested persons. Consultation will take place during October and final proposals will be brought to full Council in December, prior to implementation in time for the annually revised Register of Electors to be published on 17 February 2014.

- 5.3 When conducting the Review it was important to take into consideration the effect of postal voting on the turnout at polling stations. Since changes in legislation in 2000, allowing all voters the option to vote by post, the number of permanent postal voters in the borough has risen annually. In 2000 there were 1197 postal voters and the latest figure in 2013 is 8066, with many further postal voting forms being requested during the annual canvass. As the current number of people on the Register is 53395 that equates to 15% of the electorate voting by post which in turn significantly reduces the number of people attending polling stations. In the May 2013 Lancashire County Council elections 10% of voters chose to vote by post and a further 20% voted in polling stations, therefore when looking at the number of people allocated to a polling station it is necessary to remember that approximately 23% of the people allocated will use the facility. This figure will however increase at Parliamentary elections.

5.4 *The Review Process*

A considerable amount of background information was necessary to inform the decision to be made by the (Acting) Returning Officer, including the following:

- Electorate figures, broken down to polling district level
- Details of existing polling places and an indication as to their overall suitability for the purpose
- Details of potential alternative polling places and locations which might appear suitable
- Maps detailing polling stations and polling district boundaries

5.5 *Consultation*

Notice of the Review and supporting information was placed on the Council's website, in the One Stop Shop and in local libraries. It was sent to the Acting Returning Officer for Hyndburn Constituency, Borough and County Councillors, MP's, Parish Office, Local Community Groups and National Disability Organisations. A cross party Consultation Response Group was also established. Comments were invited from any other interested parties. Information provided by Polling Station Inspectors and voters held at elections since the last Review held in 2011 were also used.

5.6 *Responses*

5 representations were received in response to the consultation from: the Cross Party Working Group; two Councillors; the (Acting) Returning Officer for Hyndburn; and Whitworth Parish Council. The cross party Consultation Response Group's suggestions and comments have been summarised in the table below and included in the table at Appendix A. Once any changes have been approved, the findings of the Review will be published, in line with legislation, together with the designation of polling places, suggested proposals for the (Acting) Returning Officer regarding the location of polling stations and the reasons for any changes.

5.7 *Proposals*

Each Ward is dealt with separately and the (Acting) Returning Officer's proposals for polling districts, polling places and polling stations are shown in Appendix A. To summarise, it is proposed that the existing polling districts and places (not stations) remain the same, except for the following: -

Wards and Polling Stations	Polling District	Information
EDEN		
Bleakholt Animal Sanctuary	HE3	Propose merge HE2 with HE3 with voters using the polling station at Edenfield CE School.
HELMSHORE		
Ravencroft Communal Room	HH1	Propose move polling district boundary currently running along Broadway to Greens Lane and along the rear of houses on Brooklands, Raven and Musden Avenues to achieve a greater degree of equality in number of voters in HH1 and HH2.

IRWELL		
The Maden Centre	BI1	Propose merge half of BI3 up to and including Pennine Road into BI1.
Britannia CP School	BI2	Propose merge half of BI3 past BI1 into BI2.
St Mary's RC School	BI3	Split as above.
LONGHOLME		
Oakenhead Resource Centre	RL2	Propose merge RL2 and RL3 and rename RL2 with electors voting at Rossendale Museum
Rossendale Museum	RL3	As above.
WHITEWELL		
Whitewell Bottom Community Centre	RW3	As below.
Lumb Baptist Church	RW4	Move Far Brex Farm; Middle Bank End Farm, Far Bank End Farm, Dean Height Farm, Hean Height Barn, Oak Tree Barn, Hoyle Dean Farm and Ash Tree barn from RW4 into RW3 to include them on Coal Pit lane with electors voting at Whitewell Bottom Community Centre.
WORSLEY		
Stonefold CE School	HW1, HW2	Propose merge polling districts. Propose rename HW1.
Haslingden Community Link	HW4	Propose rename polling district to HW3 following above change.

COMMENTS FROM STATUTORY OFFICERS:

6. SECTION 151 OFFICER

6.1 Any financial implications will be met from existing budget resources.

7. MONITORING OFFICER

7.1 Legal comments included within the report.

8. POLICY IMPLICATIONS AND CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT

8.1 The review has considered the equality implications of proposing any changes to existing arrangements. A community impact assessment has been undertaken.

8.2 Consultation has been carried out directly with elected Members, community groups and other interested groups and members of the public in line with statutory requirements. A polling district consultation response group also fed into the review.

9. CONCLUSION

9.1 That the Council make any comments it wishes to the (Acting) Returning Officer to consider in relation to her proposals for the citing of polling stations.

Background Papers

Document	Place of Inspection
The Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places (Parliamentary Elections) Regulations 2006	Elections Office, Futures Park, Bacup

Appendices

- A. Polling District Review Breakdown 2013
- B. Polling District Review 2013 – Financial Implications
- C. Community Impact Assessment
- D. Responses Received to Consultation

POLLING DISTRICT REVIEW BREAKDOWN 2013

Final Proposal – New Arrangements

WARDS & POLLING STATIONS	Polling District	Polling Station Voters	Postal Voters	Over 70's	Information
CRIBDEN (BME 11%) 5.3% English 2 nd language	Rossendale with Darwen Parliamentary Constituency				
St. James the Less	RC1 / 2	2382	420	387	This Church building has been used as a polling station for many years and local people are used to voting there. There is good car parking space and there is level access to the polling station. There appears to be no other suitable public building within the polling district that would offer a better alternative.
EDEN (BME 2%) 1.4% English 2 nd language	Rossendale with Darwen Parliamentary Constituency				
Stubbins CP School	HE1	1379	273	182	This school building has been used as a polling station for many years and local people are used to voting there. The school is closed for elections. There is parking outside the school and facilities for disabled users.
Edenfield CE School	HE2	1026	223	142	This school building has been used as a polling station for many years and local people are used to voting there. There is parking outside the school and level access for disabled users. There appears to be no other suitable public building within the polling district that would offer a better alternative.

WARDS & POLLING STATIONS	Polling District	Polling Station Voters	Postal Voters	Over 70's	Information
FACIT AND SHAWFORTH (BME 2%) 1% English 2nd language	Rossendale with Darwen Parliamentary Constituency				
Shawforth Methodist	WF1	696	94	79	This Church building has been used as a polling station for many years and local people are used to voting there. There is parking available on the roadside and an alternative entrance for disabled users. There appears to be no alternative suitable public building within the polling district that would offer a better alternative.
Whitworth Civic Hall	WF2	1845	242	328	This public building is new and has good access and parking. There appears to be no better alternative public building within the polling district that would offer a better alternative.
GOODSHAW (BME 2%) 1.6% English 2nd language	Rossendale with Darwen Parliamentary Constituency				
Goodshaw Baptist Church	RG1	1865	365	252	This Church building has been used as a polling station for many years and local people are used to voting there. There is parking available on the roadside and an alternative entrance for disabled users. There appears to be no alternative suitable public building within the polling district that would offer a better alternative.
Rakefoot Methodist Church	RG2	834	128	80	This Church building has served as a polling station for many years and local people are used to voting there. There is on street car parking. There are 2 steps to the premises and no disabled access and the path becomes slippery if it rains therefore a warning sign has been suggested. There appears to be no other suitable public building within the polling district that would offer a better alternative.

WARDS & POLLING STATIONS	Polling District	Polling Station Voters	Postal Voters	Over 70's	Information
GREENFIELD (BME 12%) 4.9% English 2nd language	Hyndburn Parliamentary Constituency				
Tor View School, The Ewood Centre	HG1	686	116	98	This school building has been used as a polling station for many years and local people are used to voting there. The Ewood Centre is a new building which is accessible for wheelchair users and there is adequate parking. There appears to be no other suitable public building within the polling district that would offer a better alternative.
Station 1: Haslingden CP School	HG2	1548	297	317	This school building has been used as a polling station for many years and local people are used to voting there. The premises are accessible for wheelchair users and there is adequate roadside parking. There appears to be no other suitable public building within the polling district that would offer a better alternative.
Station 2: Haslingden CP School	HG3	1520	336	184	This school building has been used as a polling station for many years and local people are used to voting there. The premises are accessible for wheelchair users and there is adequate roadside parking. There appears to be no other suitable public building within the polling district that would offer a better alternative.
GREENSCLOUGH (BME 2%) 1.6% English 2nd language	Rossendale with Darwen Parliamentary Constituency				
Northern School	BG1	1066	203	95	This school building has served as a polling station for many years and local people are used to voting there. The school remains open on election days. There is roadside parking outside the school but access is not ideal due to a small step at entrance and also into classroom which may limit accessibility for wheelchair users. There appears to be no other suitable public building within the polling district that would offer a better alternative.

WARDS & POLLING STATIONS	Polling District	Polling Station Voters	Postal Voters	Over 70's	Information
Bacup Cricket Club	BG2	1330	297	216	This cricket club building has served as a polling station for several years and local people are used to voting there. There is good parking and the building is accessible for wheelchair users or people with mobility problems. There appears to be no other suitable public building within the polling district that would offer a better alternative.
Futures Park	BG3	698	154	106	This building has been used as a polling station for two years. There is good parking and disabled access. There appears to be no other public building within the polling district that would offer a more suitable alternative.
Trinity Baptist Church	BG4	695	116	96	This church building has been used as a polling station for many years and local people are used to voting there. Premises are suitable and accessible to users, although wheelchair users may need assistance. There appears to be no other public building within the polling district that would offer a more suitable alternative.
HAREHOLME (BME 9%) 4% English 2nd language	Rossendale with Darwen Parliamentary Constituency				
Kay Street Baptist Church	RH1	1045	206	157	This church building has been used as a polling station for several years and residents are used to voting there. There is roadside parking and level access for disabled users. There appears to be no other suitable public building within the polling district that would offer a better alternative.
38 th Rossendale Scout Hut	RH2	753	139	127	This scout building has been used as a polling station for four years and local people are used to voting there. There is on-site parking and level access. There appears to be no other suitable public building within the polling district that would offer a better alternative.

WARDS & POLLING STATIONS	Polling District	Polling Station Voters	Postal Voters	Over 70's	Information
St Nicholas CE School	RH3	1362	282	257	This school building has been used as a polling station for many years and local people are used to voting there. There is adequate parking and disabled access. There appears to be no other suitable public building within the polling district that would offer a better alternative.
Station 1: Horse & Bamboo	RH4	392	93	64	This Theatre building has been used as a polling station for two elections. There is on street parking and disabled access. There appears to be no other suitable public building within the polling district that would offer a better alternative.
HEALEY & WHITWORTH (BME 2%) 1.3% English 2nd language	Rossendale with Darwen Parliamentary Constituency				
Whitworth Children's Centre	WH1	1735	278	235	This school building has been used as a polling station for many years and local people are used to voting there. The premises are accessible for wheelchair users and there is adequate parking. There appears to be no other suitable public building within the polling district that would offer a better alternative.
Tonacliffe Primary School	WH2	828	143	98	This school building has been used as a polling station for many years and local people are used to voting there. The premises are accessible for wheelchair users and there is adequate parking. There appears to be no other suitable public building within the polling district that would offer a better alternative.
HELMSHORE (BME 3%) 1.7% English 2nd language	Rossendale with Darwen Parliamentary Constituency				
Ravencroft, Communal Room	HH1	1122	201	247	This home for the elderly has been used as a polling station for several years and local people are used to voting there. It has adequate on street parking and is accessible for wheelchair users. There appears to be no other suitable public building within the polling district that would offer a better alternative.

WARDS & POLLING STATIONS	Polling District	Polling Station Voters	Postal Voters	Over 70's	Information
Helmshore CP School	HH2	1805	348	281	This school building has been used as a polling station for many years and local people are used to voting there. The premises are accessible for wheelchair users and there is adequate parking. There appears to be no other suitable public building within the polling district that would offer a better alternative.
Helmshore Textile Museum	HH3	1024	183	88	This museum building has been used for several years as a polling station and local people are used to voting there. The building has recently been renovated to provide good disabled access and parking. There appears to be no other suitable public building within the polling district that would offer a better alternative.
IRWELL (BME 2%) 1.4% English 2nd language	Rossendale with Darwen Parliamentary Constituency				
The Maden Centre	BI1	2223	435	256	This community building has served as a polling station for four years and local people are used to voting there. There is car parking on site and disabled access. There appears to be no other suitable public building within the polling district that would offer a better alternative.
Britannia CP School	BI2	1269	208	131	This school building has served as a polling station for many years and local people are used to voting there. There is a separate entrance to the polling station which provides disabled access. There is adequate car parking in the school playground. There appears to be no other suitable public building within the polling district that would offer a better alternative.

WARDS & POLLING STATIONS	Polling District	Polling Station Voters	Postal Voters	Over 70's	Information
LONGHOLME (BME 9%) 3.9% English 2nd language	Rossendale with Darwen Parliamentary Constituency				
21 st Scout Headquarters – Cherry Crescent	RL1	1967	323	329	This scout building has been used for many years as a polling station and local people are used to voting there. There is on street parking and disabled access. There appears to be no other suitable public building within the polling district that would offer a better alternative.
Rossendale Museum	RL2	1648	309	237	This museum building has been used as a polling station for several years and local people are used to voting there. There is adequate parking and the building has disabled access. There appears to be no other suitable public building within the polling district that would offer a better alternative.
STACKSTEADS (BME 3%) 1.7% English 2nd language	Rossendale with Darwen Parliamentary Constituency				
Acre Mill Baptist Church	BS1	1550	243	190	This church building is a new polling station. There is adequate parking and good disabled access. There appears to be no other suitable public building within the polling district that would offer a better alternative.
Stacksteads Methodist Church	BS2	978	155	160	This church building has been used for several years as a polling station and local people are used to voting there. There is adequate parking and good disabled access. There appears to be no other suitable public building within the polling district that would offer a better alternative.

WARDS & POLLING STATIONS	Polling District	Polling Station Voters	Postal Voters	Over 70's	Information
WHITEWELL (BME 2%) 1.2% English 2nd language	Rossendale with Darwen Parliamentary Constituency				
Station 2: Horse & Bamboo	RW1	1015	217	158	This Theatre building has been used as a polling station for two elections. There is on street parking and disabled access. There appears to be no other suitable public building within the polling district that would offer a better alternative.
Edgeside Baptist Church	RW2	1276	207	168	This church building has been used as a polling station for several years and local people are used to voting there. There is on street parking and disabled access to the building. There appears to be no other suitable public building within the polling district that would offer a suitable alternative.
Whitewell Bottom Community Centre	RW3	698	77	70	This community building has been used for several years and local residents are used to voting there. There is parking available at the Centre and level access to the polling station. There appears to be no other suitable alternative public building within the polling district that would offer a suitable alternative.
Lumb Baptist Church	RW4	774	136	87	This church building has been used as a polling station for many years by local residents who are used to voting there. There is good parking and access to the station. There appears to be no other suitable alternative public building within the polling district that would offer a suitable alternative.

WARDS & POLLING STATIONS	Polling District	Polling Station Voters	Postal Voters	Over 70's	Information
WORSLEY (BME 19%) 8.8% English 2nd language	Hyndburn Parliamentary Constituency				
St John's CE School	HW1	1028	185	159	This school building has been used as a polling station for many years and local residents are used to voting there. There is adequate on street parking and good disabled access. There appears to be no other suitable alternative public building within the polling district that would offer a suitable alternative.
Haslingden Community Link	HW2	1176	163	103	This community building has been used as a polling station for many years and local residents are used to voting there. There is good parking and disabled access. There appears to be no other suitable alternative public building within the polling district that would offer a suitable alternative.
St James CE School	HW3	1601	262	208	This school building has been used as a polling station for many years and local residents are used to voting there. There is adequate on street parking and good disabled access. There appears to be no other suitable alternative public building within the polling district that would offer a suitable alternative.

POLLING DISTRICT REVIEW 2013 – FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Ward	Removed Poll Stations	Saving	Number of Stations after Review
Cribden	-		1
Eden	Bleak Holt Animal Sanctuary	£486.00	2
Facit & Shawforth	-		2
Goodshaw	-		2
Greenfield	-		3
Greensclough	-		4
Hareholme	-		4
Healey & Whitworth	-		2
Helmshore	-		3
Irwell	St Mary's RC School	£453.00	2
Longholme	Oakenhead Resource Centre	£441.00	2
Stacksteads	-		2
Whitewell	-		4
Worsley	-		3
14		£1310.00	39

Community Impact Assessment Form

Name of Strategy/Policy:	Polling District Review 2013	
Officer Name(s):	Joanne Smith	
Job Title & Location:	Elections Manager, Futures Park	
Department/Service Area:	Legal and Democratic Services	
Telephone & E-mail Contact:	01706 252445 joannesmith@rossendalebc.gov.uk	
Date Assessment:	Commenced: 1 October 2013	Completed: 31 October 2013

1. Impact Assessment – Policy and Target Outcomes

- a) Summarise the main aims/objectives of the strategy, policy, procedure, project or decision (refer to “**Notes for Guidance**” for details).

A polling district review is a legal requirement and must be carried out by the (Acting) Returning Officer within four years of the previous review.

The review looks at polling districts (the sub sectioning of wards) and their boundaries. Associated as part of the review is to consider the location of polling stations and their use by electors. Changes to boundaries must be passed by full Council and recommendations may be made to the (Acting) Returning Officer in relation to polling stations.

The report recommends that:

- Changes made to polling district boundaries are proposed to Whitewell ward to enable eight farms to vote in the polling station closer to their properties; Helmshore ward to achieve a greater degree of equality in numbers of voters in HH1 and HH2 polling districts;
- Eden only requires two polling stations for the number of electors served, and therefore recommends the closure of one polling station at Bleakholt. It is suggested that Edenfield School is used as it is 1.1 mile from Bleakholt.
- One polling location in Longholme is due to close and it is felt the Ward only requires two polling stations for the number of electors served, therefore the report recommends the voters from the location to close (Oakenhead) vote at the next nearest polling station at Rossendale Museum which is 0.6 of a mile from Oakenhead.
- Irwell only requires two polling stations for the number of electors served, and therefore recommends the closure of one polling station at St Mary’s School. It is suggested that voters are split between existing stations at the Maden Centre (0.5 miles from St Mary’s) and Britannia School (1 mile from St Mary’s).

If additional changes are recommended an additional community impact assessment will be undertaken as appropriate to consider impact.

- b) Is the policy or decision under review?

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The decision regarding polling districts is reviewed every five years (within 18 months prior to a Parliamentary election) and the allocation of polling stations is made by the Returning Officer annually prior to elections.

- c) Main or intended groups identified as beneficiaries, targets or users of (or affected in any other way) this strategy, policy, project, procedure or decision? Please specify in box below:

Main beneficiaries:

- Registered electors
- Staff

- d) Please detail below specific equality groups who will be the main beneficiaries, targets and users of this strategy, policy, project, procedure or decision, or who will be affected in any other way.

Key equality groups as main beneficiaries or affected in any other way (where appropriate):

- The polling district review considers access of polling stations and intends to provide accessible buildings to disabled users where possible.

- e) Information considered in making this decision / recommendation regarding the communities affected by this.

- Over 70's statistics (gained from Register of Electors)
- Ethnicity data (from Census 2011)
- Polling station building data (collected May 2013 by Polling Station Inspectors)
- Customer complaint feedback (collected since last Review 2011)
- Responses from consultation held between 1st – 31st October 2013
- Consultation with Councillors and MP's

- f) Is further consultation, data collection or research still required?

Yes

No ✓

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2. Impact – Evidence

Using the table below please tick whether you have evidence that the policy/strategy/decision has a negative, positive or neutral impact **from an equalities perspective** on any of the equality groups listed below. **Throughout this document please also give consideration to the wider community cohesion impacts within and between the groups identified.**

Equality		Positive Impact (It could benefit)	Negative Impact (It could disadvantage)	Reason and any mitigating actions already in place (to reduce any adverse /negative impacts <u>or</u> reasons why it will be of positive benefit or contribution)	No Impact
Age	Older people (60+)			The review may benefit disabled people as access at polling stations is considered during the Review and buildings with better access will be chosen over those with less suitable access.	X
	Younger people (17-25), and children				X
Disability	Physical/learning/mental health	x			X
Race (Ethnicity or Nationality)	Asian or Asian British people				X
	Black or black British people				X
	Chinese or other ethnic people				X
	Irish people				X
	White people				X
	Chinese people				X
	Gypsies & Travellers				X
	Other minority communities not listed above (please state)				X
Gender	Women				X
	Men				X
Sexual Orientation	Lesbian women, gay men and bisexual people			X	

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Equality		Positive Impact (It could benefit)	Negative Impact (It could disadvantage)	Reason and any mitigating actions already in place (to reduce any adverse /negative impacts <u>or</u> reasons why it will be of positive benefit or contribution)	No Impact
Belief or Religion					X
Gender Reassignment	Transsexual people				X
Pregnancy and Maternity					X
Marriage and Civil Partnership (employment only)					X

Notes:

* Faith groups cover a wide range of groupings, the most common of which are Muslims, Buddhists, Jews, Christians, Sikhs, Hindus. Consider faith categories individually and collectively when considering positive and negative impacts

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3. Impact – Nature/Type

- a) Could you further improve the strategy, project, policy, procedure or decision's positive or neutral impact? If “Yes”, this should be detailed in the Action Plan.

YES

No ✓

- b) Actions arising from the impact assessment should form part of the Service Planning Process.

Key Actions:

- Continue to monitor all polling stations annually to ensure they are accessible
- Continue to promote postal voting as an option to all electors

4. Impact Assessment - Summary

Key Findings

Please list the major outcomes/results/findings of this assessment in relation to equality which require action by the Council detailing these in the Action Plan at the back at this document. If no specific actions have been identified please detail your key findings below:

- The majority of polling districts will have no changes made as a result of the polling district review.
- No significant negative equality impacts have been identified should the recommended changes of the Polling District review be approved.

5. Impact Assessment – Further Action

Please give the details of the monitoring/evaluation/review process that has/will be set up to check the successful implementation of the policy, project, strategy or decision including improved outcomes/impact and identify the review date.

Evaluation/ monitoring/ review process:

- Polling stations will continue to be reviewed annually by the Returning Officer's staff
- Complaints by electors/others will be dealt with by the Returning Officer's staff as they arise
- Issues regarding polling districts will be logged and included in the next polling district review

Review Date: Next Polling District Review to be completed by 1 December 2018.

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6. IMPACT ASSESSMENT ACTION PLAN

Please list below any recommendations for action that you plan to take as a result of this impact assessment (refer to Sections 3 & 4).

Issue	Action required	Lead officer	Timescale	Resource implications	Comments
NA					

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Responses Received to Consultation

	Date Received	From	Outline of Comment
1.	1 October 2013	Cllr Darryl Smith	Requested a polling station be re-introduced at Irwell Vale.
2.	9 October 2013	Consultation response group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agreed with proposal to merge HE2 and HE3 with electors voting at Edenfield School • Did not agree with proposal to merge BG4 with BG3 with electors voting at Futures Park • Did not agree with proposal to merge RH1 with RH2 with electors voting at Kay Street Baptist Church • Agreed with split of BI3 between BI1 and BI2 with electors voting at the Maden Centre and Britannia School • Agreed with proposal to merge RL2 with RL3 with electors voting at Rossendale Museum (subject to Cllr Liz McInnes speaking to residents in the affected polling district to seek their views) • Agreed with proposal for voters in BS1 to vote at Acre Mill Baptist Church • Agreed with merger of HW1 and HW2 (both currently voting at St John's School)
3.	28 October 2013	Cllr Liz McInnes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fed back resident views from Schofield Road area of RL3 (see above): general consensus that museum was too far to go. Overall support for town centre site. • Did not agree with the proposed reduction in polling stations as other wards had more.
4.	29 October 2013	(Acting) Returning Officer for Hyndburn Constituency	Agreed with proposals.
5.	29 October 2013	Whitworth Town Council	Agreed with the proposals to make no changes in Whitworth.