

REPORT TO:		Council	
DATE:		07 November 2024	
PORTFOLIO:		Councillor Munsif Dad, Leader of the Council	
REPORT AUTHOR:		Executive Director (Legal & Democratic Services)	
TITLE OF REPORT:		Statutory review of polling districts and polling places	
EXEMPT REPORT:	No		
KEY DECISION:	No	If yes, date of publication:	

1. **Purpose of Report**

To inform members of the outcome of the latest statutory review of polling places and polling districts in Hyndburn and to make recommendations.

2. **Recommendations**

It is recommended:

- 2.1 That no changes are made to the Council's current polling district boundaries; and
- 2.2 That the polling places identified in Appendix 1 are agreed.

3. **Reasons for Recommendations and Background**

3.1 **Legal basis for the review**

The Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013 requires the Council to review Hyndburn's polling districts and polling stations periodically. The review must cover the polling stations and polling districts used for Parliamentary, County Council and Borough Council elections and a statutory review was commenced in September 2024 so that any changes arising from the review could be implemented prior to the Lancashire County Council elections in May 2025.

3.2 **Aims of the review**

When carrying out the review the Council is required by legislation to:

- ensure that all electors have reasonable facilities for voting; and

- ensure that as far as reasonable and practicable, our polling places are accessible to all electors, including those with disabilities.

Polling Districts:

When reviewing polling districts we are required to look at the polling district boundaries and consider:

- are the boundaries well defined ?
- do the boundaries follow natural boundaries in the area ?
- is it clear which properties belong in which polling district ?

In addition, we are required to look at the location of the polling district and consider:

- are there suitable transport links within the polling district and how well do these serve the areas of greatest population ?
- are there any obstacles to voters reaching the polling station e.g. steep hills, major roads that are hard to cross, railway lines, rivers etc ?

Polling Stations:

When reviewing polling stations we are required to look at the location of the polling station and consider:

- is it easy to get to – are there convenient transport links or are there barriers such as steep hills, major roads etc ?

In addition we must assess the size of the polling station and consider:

- can several polling stations fit in the same room if need be
- is the polling station big enough, especially if there is a high turnout ?

We must also look at the suitability of the polling station and determine:

- will the building be available if there is an unexpected election ?
- is the building likely to be demolished or become disused ?
- is the building accessible to people with a disability ?

3.3 Any changes approved as part of the current review will take effect in time for the Lancashire County Council elections in 2025.

3.4 Where possible, we have sought to avoid the use of mobile units as polling stations, as usually it is not possible to provide a wheelchair ramp within the space available at the relevant location. However, in a small number of polling districts there is no other suitable venue available within the polling district (or within a reasonable distance within an adjacent polling district) and we have no option but to use a mobile unit.

Although this is not the ideal solution, our experience from recent elections is that these units do not generate complaints or concerns in respect of a lack of full disabled access.

3.5 Only two changes to polling stations are proposed in Appendix 1 as follows:

Polling district	Current location	Suggested new location
ZD	Mobile unit at St Mary's School	St Mary's School
IA	Oswaldtwistle Civic Theatre	Rhyddings Methodist Church

4. Alternative Options considered and Reasons for Rejection

4.1 The Council is required to comply with the legislative requirements and we have to carry out a periodic review. A review is now due at Hyndburn as the last review was completed in January 2020.

5. Consultations

5.1 Extensive consultation has been carried out in accordance with legislative requirements and Government Guidance. In particular, a notice of the review was published at Scaitcliffe House, on the Council's website, in local libraries and in community centres. In addition, details of the review were sent out to Hyndburn's district and county councillors and the local MP. The Community Action Network were also consulted, as well as Altham Parish Council.

5.2 As with previous reviews, the consultation produced a very limited response, but the comments received have been incorporated into the attached recommendations.

6. Implications

Financial implications (including mainstreaming)	No cost implications have been identified
Legal and human rights implications	These are discussed in section 3 above.
Assessment of risk	No significant risks have been identified
Equality and diversity implications <i>A Customer First Analysis should be completed in relation to policy decisions and should be attached as an appendix to the report.</i>	The Council is subject to the public sector equality duty introduced by the Equality Act 2010. When making a decision in respect of the recommendations in this report Cabinet must have regard to the need to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • eliminate unlawful discrimination,

	<p>harassment and victimisation; and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • advance equality of opportunity between those who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who don't; and • foster good relations between those who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who don't. <p>For these purposes the relevant protected characteristics are: age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation. To assist the Cabinet in this regard a Customer First Analysis has been carried out as part of the review process and is attached as Appendix 2 to this report. Cabinet is advised to consider the Customer First Analysis and its obligations in respect of the public sector equality duty when making a decision in respect of the recommendations contained in this report.</p>
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**7. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985:
List of Background Papers**

None.

8. Freedom of Information

- 8.1 The report does not contain exempt information under the Local Government Act 1972, Schedule 12A and all information can be disclosed under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Appendix1

Schedule of Polling Districts, Polling Places and Polling Stations as at 7 November 2024

Altham Ward

(Electorate 3963)

Polling District	Number of Electors	Number of Postal Voters	Current Polling Place	Disabled Access	Returning Officer Representations	Other Electoral Information	Within Polling District
ZA	1302	235	Mount Pleasant Primary School, Earl Street, Clayton-le-Moors BB5 5NH	Yes	No change	Hyndburn Constituency Great Harwood, Rishton & CLM Division	Yes
ZB1	1027	199	Mobile Unit, GM Fitted Furniture. 25 Whalley Road Accrington BB5 3DH	Yes	Ramp fitted with the mobile unit No other alternatives located in the polling district.	Hyndburn Constituency Accrington North Division	No In ZB2 (Altham)
ZB2	668	89	Mobile Unit, GM Fitted Furniture 25 Whalley Road Accrington BB5 3DH			Hyndburn Constituency Great Harwood, Rishton & CLM Division	
ZC	174	28	St. James Church Burnley Road Altham BB5 5UL	Yes	No change	Hyndburn Constituency Great Harwood, Rishton & CLM Division	Yes
ZD	792	151	Mobile Unit St. Mary's School Devonshire Drive Clayton-le-Moors BB5 5RJ	Yes	The proposal is to use St Mary's School instead of a mobile unit. We considered moving the polling station to a mobile unit on Warwick Avenue, but the use of the school building at St Mary's School is more cost effective	Hyndburn Constituency Great Harwood, Rishton & CLM Division	Yes

**Barnfield Ward
(Electorate 3398)**

Polling District	Number of Electors	Number of Postal Voters	Current Polling Place	Disabled Access	Recommendation	Other Electoral Information	Within Polling District
CA	1399	360	St. Paul's Church Hall Plantation Street access Accrington BB5 2AQ	Yes	No change	Hyndburn Constituency Accrington South Division	Yes
CB	1400	154	Woodnook Baptist Church Royds Street Accrington BB5 2JH	Yes	No change	Hyndburn Constituency Accrington South Division	Yes
CC	599	157	The Pavillion King George Playing Fields Off Royds Avenue Accrington	Yes	No change	Hyndburn Constituency Accrington South Division	Yes

**Baxenden Ward
(Electorate 3155)**

Polling District	Number of Electors	Number of Postal Voters	Current Polling Place	Disabled Access	Recommendation	Other Electoral Information	Within Polling District
DA	1065	205	Haworth Art Gallery Hollins Lane Accrington BB5 2JS	Yes	No change	Hyndburn Constituency Accrington South Division	Yes
DB	1187	537	St. Johns Church Lounge Church Avenue Baxenden BB5 2RQ	Yes	No change	Hyndburn Constituency Accrington South Division	Yes

**Central Ward
(Electorate 4059)**

Polling District	Number of Electors	Number of Postal Voters	Current Polling Place	Disabled Access	Recommendation	Other Electoral Information	Within Polling District
EA	1622	446	Oasis Church Blackburn Road Accrington BB5 0AL	No	No change Steps too steep to allow ramp to be used. No suitable alternative venue identified in the polling district. No complaints have been received about access to the polling station.	Hyndburn Constituency Accrington West & Oswaldtwistle Central Division	Yes
EB	1153	348	Scaitcliffe Community Centre Fountain Street Accrington BB5 0QX	Yes	No change	Hyndburn Constituency Accrington West & Oswaldtwistle Central Division	Yes
EC	992	242	HALO 72 Willows Lane Accrington BB5 0RT	Yes	No change	Hyndburn Constituency Accrington West & Oswaldtwistle Central Division	Yes
ED	292	58	Lupin Road Community Centre Lupin Road Accrington BB5 4BX	Yes	No change	Hyndburn Constituency Accrington North Division	No In GC (Milnshaw)

**Church Ward
(Electorate 3650)**

Polling District	Number of Electors	Number of Postal Voters	Current Polling Place	Disabled Access	Recommendation	Other Electoral Information	Within Polling District
HA	466	75	St. Christopher's CE High School Queens Road West Church BB5 4AY	Yes	No change	Hyndburn Constituency Accrington West & Oswaldtwistle Central Division	No In ZB2 (Altham)
HB	772	134	Elmfield Hall Gatty Park Church BB5 4AE	Yes	No change	Hyndburn Constituency Accrington West & Oswaldtwistle Central Division	Yes
HC	847	189	Ernest Street Baptist Church Church BB5 4HP	Yes	No change	Hyndburn Constituency Accrington West & Oswaldtwistle Central Division	Yes
HD	1565	391	Antley Methodist Church Hall Blackburn Road Accrington BB5 0DE	Yes	No change	Hyndburn Constituency Accrington West & Oswaldtwistle Central Division	Yes

**Clayton-le-Moors Ward
(Electorate 3514)**

Polling District	Number of Electors	Number of Postal Voters	Current Polling Place	Disabled Access	Recommendation	Other Electoral Information	Within Polling District
LA	1664	390	Clayton Civic Centre Pickup Street Clayton le Moors BB5 5NS	Yes	No change	Hyndburn Constituency Great Harwood, Rishton & CLM Division	Yes
LB	1850	328	Mercer House Mercer Park Clayton-le-Moors BB5 5HT	Yes	No change	Hyndburn Constituency Great Harwood, Rishton & CLM Division	Yes

**Huncoat Ward
(Electorate 3584)**

Polling District	Number of Electors	Number of Postal Voters	Current Polling Place	Disabled Access	Recommendation	Other Electoral Information	Within Polling District
AA	948	146	Huncoat Primary School Lynwood Road Huncoat BB5 6LR	Yes	No change	Hyndburn Constituency Accrington North Division	Yes
AB	1620	263	St. Augustines Church Bolton Avenue Huncoat BB5 6HY	Yes	No change	Hyndburn Constituency Accrington North Division	Yes
AC	1016	234	Mobile Unit Peel Park County School Alice Street Accrington BB5 6QR	Yes	Ramp fitted with the mobile unit	Hyndburn Constituency Accrington South Division	Yes

Immanuel ward
(Electorate 3480)

Polling District	Number of Electors	Number of Postal Voters	Current Polling Place	Disabled Access	Recommendation	Other Electoral Information	Within Polling District
JA	1128	334	St. Paul's Church Catlow Hall Street Oswaldtwistle BB5 3EY	Yes	No change	Hyndburn Constituency Oswaldtwistle Division	No In IA (St Andrews)
JB	796	154	Union Road Community Church Oswaldtwistle BB5 3HS	Yes	No change	Hyndburn Constituency Oswaldtwistle Division	Yes
JC	1279	196	Holy Trinity Church New Lane Oswaldtwistle BB5 3PH	Yes	No change	Hyndburn Constituency Oswaldtwistle Division	Yes
JD	277	45	Green Haworth School School House Lane Green Haworth Accrington BB5 3SQ	Yes	No change	Hyndburn Constituency Oswaldtwistle Division	Yes

**Milnshaw Ward
(Electorate 3687)**

Polling District	Number of Electors	Number of Postal Voters	Current Polling Place	Disabled Access	Recommendation	Other Electoral Information	Within Polling District
GA	650702	71	St. Joseph's Church Hall Pollard Street Accrington BB5 6BA	Yes	No change	Hyndburn Constituency Accrington North Division	Yes
GB	2316	480	Stanley Sports Hub Thorneyholme Road Accrington BB5 6BD	Yes	No change	Hyndburn Constituency Accrington North Division	Yes
GC	721	148	Lupin Road Community Centre Lupin Road Accrington BB5 4BX	Yes	No change	Hyndburn Constituency Accrington North Division	Yes

**Netherton Ward
(Electorate 3584)**

Polling District	Number of Electors	Number of Postal Voters	Current Polling Place	Disabled Access	Recommendation	Other Electoral Information	Within Polling District
YA	1374	176	St. John's CE School Vicar Street Great Harwood BB6 7ES	Yes	Ramp is available, but may be too steep for proper use. If a suitable ramp is not available, we will use the other entrance to the school, or if this cannot be agreed with the school, the school will be closed.	Hyndburn Constituency Great Harwood, Rishton & CLM Division	Yes
YB	2210	396	Library Queen Street Great Harwood BB6 7AL	Yes	No change	Hyndburn Constituency Great Harwood, Rishton & CLM Division	No In XB (Overton)

**Overton Ward
(Electorate 4788)**

Polling District	Number of Electors	Number of Postal Voters	Current Polling Place	Disabled Access	Recommendation	Other Electoral Information	Within Polling District
XA	2277	464	Trinity URC & Methodist Church Entrance off King Street Great Harwood BB6 7JN	Yes	No change	Hyndburn Constituency Great Harwood, Rishton & CLM Division	Yes
XB	2042	368	Bank Mill House Church Street Great Harwood BB6 7NF	Yes	No change	Hyndburn Constituency Great Harwood, Rishton & CLM Division	Yes
XC	469	50	Mobile Unit Waverledge Estate Wordsworth Drive Great Harwood BB6 7LD	No	Unable to fit a ramp to the mobile unit as this would obstruct the pavement and run onto the road. No alternative venue identified in the polling district.	Hyndburn Constituency Great Harwood, Rishton & CLM Division	Yes

**Peel Ward
(Electorate 3118)**

Polling District	Number of Electors	Number of Postal Voters	Current Polling Place	Disabled Access	Recommendation	Other Electoral Information	Within Polling District
BA	620	82	St Johns Church Vestry Addison Street Accrington BB5 6AG	Yes	No change	Hyndburn Constituency Accrington North Division	Yes
BB	2015	249	Cambridge Street Methodist Church Accrington BB5 6EH	Yes	No change	Hyndburn Constituency Accrington South Division	Yes
BC	483	63	Lancashire ACF Washington Street Accrington BB5 6PH	Yes	No change	Hyndburn Constituency Accrington South Division	Yes

**Rishton Ward
(Electorate 5001)**

Polling District	Number of Electors	Number of Postal Voters	Current Polling Place	Disabled Access	Recommendation	Other Electoral Information	Within Polling District
MA	857	152	Rishton Bowling Club Parker Street Rishton BB1 4NT	No	No disabled access – not enough space to fit a ramp due to narrow path and obstructing the pavement. No suitable alternative polling station has been identified in the polling district.	Hyndburn Constituency Great Harwood, Rishton & CLM Division	Yes
MB	2120	398	St. Peter & St. Paul Parish Hall Blackburn Road Rishton BB1 4BZ	Yes	No change	Hyndburn Constituency Great Harwood, Rishton & CLM Division	Yes
MC	2024	384	Rishton Methodist Church Albert Street Rishton BB1 4RG	Yes	No change	Hyndburn Constituency Great Harwood, Rishton & CLM Division	Yes

**Spring Hill Ward
(Electorate 3856)**

Polling District	Number of Electors	Number of Postal Voters	Current Polling Place	Disabled Access	Recommendation	Other Electoral Information	Within Polling District
FA	1045	140	Community Centre 31 Fairfield Street Accrington BB5 0LD	Yes	No change	Hyndburn Constituency Accrington West & Oswaldtwistle Central Division	Yes
FB	1068	225	Community Centre 33 Moorhouse Avenue Accrington BB5 0JG	Yes	No change	Hyndburn Constituency Accrington West & Oswaldtwistle Central Division	Yes
FC	880	137	Mount Carmel RC School Wordsworth Road Accrington BB5 0LU	Yes	No change	Hyndburn Constituency Accrington West & Oswaldtwistle Central Division	No In FB (Spring Hill)
FD	863	185	Scaitcliffe Community Centre Fountain Street Accrington BB5 0QX	Yes	No change	Hyndburn Constituency Accrington West & Oswaldtwistle Central Division	No in EB (Central)

**St. Andrew's Ward
(Electorate 3349)**

Polling District	Number of Electors	Number of Postal Voters	Current Polling Place	Disabled Access	Recommendation	Other Electoral Information	Within Polling District
IA	1953	296	Mobile Unit Car Park rear of Civic Arts Centre Lord Street Oswaldtwistle BB5 3HZ	Yes	We propose to use Rhyddings Methodist Church, Chapel Street, Oswaldtwistle, BB5 3EP It has level access, car parking for staff and electors and 3 entry/exit points	Hyndburn Constituency Accrington West & Oswaldtwistle Central Division	Yes
IB	821	197	Moor End School The Sunshine Room White Ash Lane Oswaldtwistle BB5 3JG	Yes	Bright Street entrance opened up at 3.30 pm when school day ends. No complaints received from electors.	Hyndburn Constituency Oswaldtwistle Division	Yes
IC	575	84	Community Centre Byron Close Oswaldtwistle BB5 4RA	Yes	No change	Hyndburn Constituency Oswaldtwistle Division	Yes

**St. Oswald's Ward
(Electorate 4880)**

Polling District	Number of Electors	Number of Postal Voters	Current Polling Place	Disabled Access	Recommendation	Other Electoral Information	Within Polling District
KA	314	69	Belthorn Primary School Belthorn Road Belthorn BB1 2PE	Yes	No change	Hyndburn Constituency Oswaldtwistle Division	Yes
KB	1643	424	St. Oswald's Church Knuzden BB1 2DP	Yes	Disabled access although not ideal as there is an uneven level to get onto the 'disabled access' path. No other site identified	Hyndburn Constituency Oswaldtwistle Division	Yes
KC	1555	395	All Saints Church Hall Aspen Lane Oswaldtwistle BB5 4QA	Yes	No change	Hyndburn Constituency Oswaldtwistle Division	Yes
KC2	277	60	Holy Trinity Church New Lane Oswaldtwistle BB5 3PH	Yes	No change	Hyndburn Constituency Oswaldtwistle Division	No In JC (Immanuel)
KD	1091	172	West End Community Centre Blackburn Road Oswaldtwistle BB5 4LZ	Yes	No change	Hyndburn Constituency Oswaldtwistle Division	Yes

Appendix 2

Customer First Analysis:

Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places

1. Purpose

- What are you trying to achieve?

The Council is ensuring that the boundaries of polling districts are identifiable and that polling places are suitable for use and accessible to all

- Who defines and manages it?

The Council is under a statutory duty to carry out the review in accordance with Government Guidance

- Who do you intend to benefit from it and how?

Electors should be able to attend their allotted polling place easily and have reasonable facilities for voting.

- What could prevent people from getting the most out of the change?

There may be some electors who are not aware of the change of building and do not know who to contact to check correct details

- How will you get your customers involved in the analysis and how will you tell people about it?

Public notice about the review has been posted at Scaitcliffe House, the Town Hall, local libraries and community centres and details are on the Councils website. Councillors and County Councillors have been consulted on the proposals, as have political parties and various local groups representing people with a disability.

2. Evidence

- How will you know if the policy delivers its intended outcome?

No adverse comments from electors and no significant decrease in turnout.

- How satisfied are your customers and how do you know?

As above. The consultation provided no public response, but this may be due to either a lack of interest or general public satisfied with their polling places.

- What existing data do you have on the people that use the service and the wider population?

Voters are not monitored by equality groups.

- What other information would it be useful to have? How could you get this?

None in particular.

- Are you breaking down data by equality groups where relevant?
See above.

- Are you using partners, stakeholders, and councillors to get information and feedback?
Yes – see above. Councillors, disabled groups and local people are involved in the consultation process.

3. Impact

- Are some people benefiting more – or less - than others? If so, why might this be?
If suitable premises cannot be found then this could be a barrier for wheelchair users, those with pushchairs and the partially sighted. Those who do not have their own transport and have to rely on public transport could be affected

4. Actions

- If the evidence suggests that the service benefits a particular group – or disadvantages another - is there a justifiable reason for this and if so, what is it?

Part of the criteria for buildings to be used is to ensure that wherever reasonable and practicable every polling place is accessible to electors who are disabled and wish to vote in person. However, it is not always possible to locate a suitable building within the polling district.

- Is it discriminatory in any way?

No. In some instances it just may not be possible to find a suitable venue with disabled access. And, whilst recognising that everyone should if possible be able to go and cast their vote, voters do have the facility to apply for a postal vote. Presiding officers will also take the ballot paper out to voters who wish to vote in person but are physically unable to access the polling station. Voters can also appoint proxies.

- Is there a possible impact in relationships or perceptions between different parts of the community?

See above.

- What measures can you put in place to reduce disadvantages?

There are no resources available for carrying out modifications to buildings, whether Council or privately owned. Postal votes are available and voters are able to appoint proxies in certain circumstances.

- Do you need to consult further?

No. Comments were invited at the beginning of the review and then after proposals had been published.

- Have you identified any potential improvements to customer service?

No, hopefully we expect that most people should not notice any difference to their polling place and those who have a change will be told about it.

- Who should you tell about the outcomes of this analysis?

Polling place correspondents will be informed as soon as possible of the outcomes. Public notice will be given at the conclusion of the review. Any changes to polling places will be mentioned in a press release and if possible highlighted on poll cards at the next local election. It is hoped that notices will be displayed at buildings no longer used as polling stations, directing electors to their new polling places.

- Have you built the actions into your Business Plan with a clear timescale?
The proposals are to be agreed by Council.

- When will this assessment need to be repeated?

The next review will have to be completed in accordance with statutory timescales.