



East  
Northamptonshire  
Council

## Policy & Resources Committee – 07 November 2011

### Review of Polling Districts and Places

#### Purpose of report

This report follows the decisions taken by the council on 18 July and 10 October in respect of a review of polling districts and places and, in accordance with the delegated authority given to this committee, asks members to make final decisions on the review.

#### Attachment(s)

Appendix 1 – Consultation document

Appendix 2 - Final recommendations with changes proposed and justification for not amending arrangements following comments received.

Appendix 3 - Oundle – reallocation of polling districts

Appendix 4 - Equality Impact Assessment

#### 1.0 Introduction

1.1 The council meeting on 10 October gave authority to this committee to decide on polling districts, places and stations for the next four years following the statutory review (minute 222 refers). Details of the steps taken following the initial decision on 18 July to conduct the review were given in the report to council on 10 October.

1.2 Since then, further discussion has taken place on the response to the representations made during the consultation period, and the council's Returning Officer has been involved. Members are reminded that the content of the representations can be viewed on the webpage on the council's website ([www.east-northamptonshire.gov.uk/pollingdistrictreview](http://www.east-northamptonshire.gov.uk/pollingdistrictreview)).

1.3 This report suggests that the majority of the current polling stations continue to be used and almost all polling districts remain unchanged.

#### 2.0 Consultation with all statutory bodies and others

2.1 All relevant consultations have been undertaken – especially with special interest groups where changes are being proposed. After discussion with this council's Returning Officer, an initial consultation document was circulated (Appendix 1) and proposals were especially sought for alternative venues for –

- Schools – to avoid disruption on polling day to pupils staff and parents
- Premises which were not completely DDA compliant
- Buildings currently used as polling stations but their future use was uncertain.

2.2 The Returning Officers for the Corby and Wellingborough parliamentary constituencies had no observations to make. Wellingborough Constituency Labour Party also had no comments. The only town and parish councils to make representations were:-

- Chelveston-cum-Caldecott – supports current arrangements
- Irthlingborough – supports current arrangements
- Warmington – supports current arrangements
- Oundle – wants the Queen Victoria Hall to be used as a polling station
- Raunds – put forward alternatives to Windmill School (covered in Appendix 2)
- Rushden – put forward an alternative (Rushden Hayden Road Football Club)

to Newton Road Infants School.

2.3 The only representations made by District councillors were as follows:-

- Councillor Richard Gell concerning the access for disabled people at the Duchy Suite, Higham Ferrers Junior School), Higham Ferrers Chichele Ward. This is dealt with under Appendix 2.
- Councillor Pam Whiting concerning the allocation of streets to the various polling stations in Higham Ferrers Lancaster ward. This is dealt with under Appendix 2.
- Councillor Brian Northall – supporting the current arrangements for the Raunds Saxon ward
- Councillor Sarah Peacock – supporting the use of an alternative station for Hayway Infants School, which is to close (representations made at the council meeting on 18 July – see Appendix 2).

2.4 Because one of the suggestions made in the consultation document was to cease using Deene Village Hall and look to parishioners to use the current polling station at Deenethorpe, we consulted with all electors in Deene and with special interest groups representing on this proposal. No representations were received from either electors or special interest groups.

2.5 We were anxious to ensure that we consulted with groups representing disabled people, as some of the current polling stations are not fully DDA compliant. These are -

- Barnwell Ward – Caravan at 5 Lilford
- Kings Forest Ward – Bulwick Village Centre
- Lyveden Ward – Bakehouse Cottage, Slipton
- Oundle Ward – Caravan at The Grange, Pilton
- Woodford Ward – Chancel Cottage, High Street, Little Addington.

No comments were received by representatives of disabled groups. No representations were received suggesting alternative premises for these 5 current stations.

2.6 As we were mindful of the possible disruption to pupils, teaching staff and parents on polling day and wished to avoid closure of schools, we sought either alternative premises or suggestions from headteachers about using a building on the school site that would confine disruption to a minimum. All headteachers were consulted, and representations were only received from the headteachers of the following two schools:-

- Tennyson Road Infant School, Rushden (Rushden Pemberton and Spencer wards). Before the consultation, we were asked to consider the use of the Pemberton Centre
- Whitefriars Junior School (Rushden Pemberton ward).

However, as members will note from paragraphs 2.2 and 2.3 above, suggestions for alternative stations to enable polling to cease at the following schools were put forward by others:-

- Newton Road Infants School, Rushden
- Hayway Infants School, Rushden
- South End Infant and Junior Schools, Rushden.

The alternatives are covered in Appendix 2.

2.7 As regards polling districts, the only change being proposed is a reallocation of the streets within the Oundle ward. This is in response to a representation received (see

Appendix 2). The effect of the change is set out in Appendix 3. Consideration was also given to merging TJ and TK in the Rushden Pemberton ward but because these districts reflect county council electoral boundaries, no change is being recommended. However, only one polling station will be used at Whitefriars Church. A request to change the allocation of electors between polling stations in Higham Ferrers cannot be entertained because it would affect the ward boundaries between the Chichele and Lancaster wards (which is outside the scope of the review).

### **3.0 Equality and Diversity Issues**

3.1 The service is a statutory duty, which includes a requirement to take into account the ease of accessibility to the polling stations for anyone with a disability. In addition, the proposed change at Deene could have a negative effect for older people and have rural isolation implications. The relevant EqlA for the proposal for Deene is attached at Appendix 4 and members are asked to carry consider this and endorse it. No representations were made on this proposal. EqlAs were also prepared for other suggested changes but there were no negative effects identified. The other EqlAs can be viewed at ([www.east-northamptonshire.gov.uk/pollingdistrictreview](http://www.east-northamptonshire.gov.uk/pollingdistrictreview)).

### **4.0 Legal Implications**

4.1 The council is under a statutory duty to complete a review by the end of this year.

### **5.0 Risk Management**

5.1 There are no significant risks to the council in relation to the recommendations. However, failure to finalise the review could result in a legal challenge and therefore it is essential the review recommendations are put into effect.

### **6.0 Financial Implications**

6.1 There are no additional financial implications. The work is being accommodated within the workload of the Democratic Services Manager and electoral services staff.

### **7.0 Corporate Outcomes**

7.1 Good quality of life – safe: the prospect of improving access to polling stations for disabled people

7.2 High Quality Service Delivery (satisfied residents and enhanced customer experience): supporting the customer by ensuring that all electors have reasonable facilities for voting *as are practicable in the circumstances*

### **8.0 Consideration of Proposals and Representations Received**

8.1 All the representations received during the consultation have been carefully considered. The comments of the Returning Officer on the issues involved are shown in column one of Appendix 2 attached. Recommendations are shown in bold. Appendix 2 only covers polling districts and stations where there is discussion on possible changes. For all the other districts, places and stations, no change is proposed.

### **9.0 Recommendations**

8.1 It is recommended:-

- (1) That the Equalities Impact Assessment attached at Appendix 4 be carefully considered and endorsed.

- (2) That the changes relating to polling districts, places and stations as outlined in bold in the first column of Appendix 2 and in Appendix 3 (Oundle) be introduced with effect from 1 December 2011.
- (3) That, subject to recommendation (3) below, no change be made to all other arrangements.
- (4) That the Returning Officer, Executive Director and the Head of Resources and Organisational Development be authorised to agree to introduce alternative polling stations for any premises which become unavailable for any reason between now and the next review, after consultation with ward members and the relevant parish/town council and, if relevant, special interest groups, and after inspection by a Building Control surveyor as regards suitability and DDA compliance.

*(Reason – to comply with the requirements of legislation, which requires a review to be conducted every 4 years and to take into account the needs of disabled people and other groups where it is considered there could be a negative effect )*

<b>Legal</b>	Power: Representation of the People Act 1983, as amended by the Electoral Administration Act 2006				
	Other considerations:				
<b>Background Papers:</b> Last review of polling districts and places					
<b>Person Originating Report:</b> Keith Osborne, Democratic Services Manager 01832 742113 (kwosborne@east-northamptonshire.gov.uk)					
<b>Date: 14 October 2011</b>					
<b>CFO</b>		<b>MO</b>		<b>CX</b>	

(Committee Report Normal Rev. 22)

# Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places in East Northamptonshire

## Consultation Document

Consultation Period runs from end July to 15 September 2011



## **1. Background to the Review**

Under the Representation of the People Act 1983, as amended) the council has a duty to divide its area into polling districts and to designate a polling place for each district for UK Parliamentary elections. It also has to keep these arrangements under review. The arrangements made for parliamentary elections are also used at other elections.

The Electoral Administration Act 2006 introduced a duty on all local authorities in Great Britain to review their polling districts and polling places at least once every four years. The second full review therefore needs to be completed by the end of 2011.

The existing East Northamptonshire Council ward boundaries, and the parliamentary constituency boundaries, are not part of this review, although they will be reviewed periodically in future by the relevant Boundary Committee.

## **2. Definitions**

“Polling districts” are geographical electoral areas into which wards and constituencies may be sub-divided.

“Polling places” are the buildings or areas designated by the council where electors in a polling district go to vote in person.

The polling place should in normal circumstances be situated within the polling district for which it is designated, but in some circumstances, for example where no suitable polling place can be found, then the polling place may be designated outside the polling district.

“Polling stations” are the number of issuing desks in the building that is the designated polling place, which generally range from one to three. The Returning Officer determines the number of polling stations depending on the electorate at a particular election.

## **3. The Review Process**

The council publishes notice of holding the review, and consults the Returning Officer for each Parliamentary Constituency in the council’s area. The Returning Officers’ proposals (if any) will be included on the council’s webpage (see 6) once they are received.

The council’s own Returning Officer will have looked at existing arrangements and this consultation paper has initial proposals for consultation . All current and suggested polling stations will be inspected with regard to accessibility and suitability for people with disabilities. The consultation paper is being made

available to District and County councillors, town and parish councils, Members of Parliament, local political parties, and any other interested groups and persons, including those who have particular expertise in relation to access to premises or facilities for persons who have different forms of disability.

#### 4. The Review Timetable

The timetable for the review is set out below:

Publication of notice of review, and consultation document including EN Returning Officer's proposals	Thursday 26 July
Closing date for representations	Thursday 15 September
Final proposals published via Agenda papers and webpage	Friday 21 October
Council meeting – approval of proposals	Monday 31 October
Publication of register incorporating any changes	Thursday 1 December

#### 5. The Proposals

The council appreciates the co-operation of the owners and occupiers of polling places in providing their building for the day so that electors have a convenient place to vote.

The intention is not to make changes for change's sake. The proposals seek to address issues which have arisen during recent elections and are informed by feedback from polling station staff and inspectors.

The principles underlying the council's approach to polling districts and polling places are:

- a) To retain the current network of polling places and polling districts as far as possible, to minimise disruption to voters.
- b) To try and identify new polling places in areas where the existing provision is inadequate.
- c) To ensure, as far as practicable, that polling places are accessible to people with disabilities.
- d) To ensure that all electors have such reasonable facilities for voting as are practicable in the circumstances.
- e) To try and minimise disruption to schools.

This document sets out, **in the attachment**, details of current polling district and polling places for each of the 22 wards in East Northamptonshire, together with preliminary proposals for the purposes of consultation. Descriptions of each polling district, and the maps showing the location of polling stations, can be found on the council's website by accessing ([www.east-northamptonshire.gov.uk/pollingdistrictreview](http://www.east-northamptonshire.gov.uk/pollingdistrictreview))

## **6. Making comments**

Any elector may make representations. Where someone suggests a change of polling place, we would encourage them to give the reasons for this, and to suggest alternative polling places to allow further and wider consultation. Any representations must be received by **15 September 2010**.

All representations should be addressed to:

Democratic Services Manager, East Northamptonshire Council, Cedar Drive, Thrapston, NN14 4LZ

or e-mail [elections@east-northamptonshire.gov.uk](mailto:elections@east-northamptonshire.gov.uk).

Details of representations received will be made available for inspection on the Reception at East Northamptonshire Council's Offices at Cedar Drive, Thrapston and on line.

## **7. Criteria for Alternative Polling Places**

Any suggestions for alternative polling places and stations would need to meet, as far as possible, the following basic criteria:-

- Location:
  - Should be close to where most of the electors in the polling station live
  - Avoid places at the top or bottom of a hill
  - Should have suitable access from a road
  - If there is a pavement, should have a dropped kerb nearby
  - Existence of convenient transport links
- Parking – Adequate parking facilities close to the entrance or nearby
- Access for disabled voters :
  - Designated or reserved parking for disabled and older people close to the polling station and dropped kerb from parking area to the polling station
  - Approach to polling station unobstructed and in good condition (eg avoidance of broken paving slabs, gravel, potholes etc)
  - Avoidance of steps or availability of well designed ramp (both external and internal)
  - Use of suitable entrance to polling station – wide enough for wheelchair access
  - Sufficient space inside the building for a wheelchair to move about easily
  - Good lighting both outside and inside the station (to assist visually impaired voters)
  - Avoidance of non-slip flooring



- Facilities available to polling station staff:
  - Adequate toilet facilities
  - Kitchen or access to tea/coffee making facilities
  - Adequate heating/cooling
  - Comfortable adult chairs
  - Separate area where breaks can be taken.

## **8. Completion of the Review**

A report will be submitted to the council meeting on 31 October 2011 where councillors will consider the proposals and representations received before reaching their decisions.

The new arrangements be in place for the publication of the electoral register on 1 December 2011 and will be used for subsequent elections.

## **9. Role of the Electoral Commission**

Although the Electoral Commission has no role in the review process itself, it can consider comments if people do not think that the review has met the reasonable requirements of electors or taken sufficient account of the needs of disabled electors.

The following people can make representations to the Electoral Commission:

- 30 or more registered electors
- any person who made comments during the review
- any non-elector who the Commission feels has sufficient interest in the accessibility of disabled persons

The Electoral Commission would consider the representations and may direct the council to alter polling arrangements, or make the alterations itself if the council fails to do so within two months.

**POLLING DISTRICT, PLACES AND STATIONS REVIEW 2011 –  
PRELIMINARY PROPOSALS (highlighted in grey)**

<b>BARNWELL</b>		
<b>POLLING DISTRICT/ ELECTORS</b>	<b>POLLING PLACE</b>	<b>DISABLED ACCESS</b>
RC/271	Aldwinckle Village Hall, Main Street, Aldwinckle	Yes
RF/316	Barnwell Village Hall, Hemington Road, Barnwell	Yes
RM/120	Red Lion Lodge, Main Street, Clopton	Yes with temporary ramp
RZ/73	Hemington Village Hall, Hemington	Yes
SN/52	Hemington Village Hall, Hemington	Yes
UK/79	Thurning Village Hall, Clopton Road, Thurning	Yes with temporary ramp
SK/76	Caravan at 5 Lilford	Not wide enough for wheelchairs but ramped
UF/128	Caravan at 5 Lilford	Not wide enough for wheelchairs but ramped
UL/449	Titchmarsh Village Hall, Titchmarsh	Yes with temporary ramp
<b>RETURNING OFFICER'S INITIAL PROPOSALS</b>		<b>REASONS</b>
I would like to see an alternative location for Lilford but this will depend on what is available  No change for the others unless more suitable alternatives can be found		! would like to explore the possibility of a change for Lilford and suggestions are welcome. Whilst the other venues may be the only suitable buildings available, we would nevertheless like to invite any proposals for alternatives

<b>FINESHADE</b>		
<b>POLLING DISTRICT/ ELECTORS</b>	<b>POLLING PLACE</b>	<b>DISABLED ACCESS</b>
RN/439	Collyweston Village Hall, 16 High Street, Collyweston	Yes
RS/137	Duddington and Tixover Village Hall, Church Lane, Duddington	Yes with temporary ramp
RT/842	Easton-on-the-Hill Village Hall, New Road, Easton-on-the-Hill	Yes
RU/31	Duddington and Tixover Village Hall, Church Lane, Duddington	Yes with temporary ramp
RY/205	Harringworth Village Hall, Gretton Road, Harringworth	Yes
UO/62	The Office, The Manor House, Main Street, Wakerley	Yes with temporary ramp
<b>RETURNING OFFICER'S INITIAL PROPOSALS</b>		<b>REASONS</b>
No change unless more suitable alternatives can be found		Whilst these venues may be the only suitable buildings available, we would nevertheless like to invite any proposals for alternatives

<b>HIGHAM FERRERS CHICHELE</b>		
<b>POLLING DISTRICT/ ELECTORS</b>	<b>POLLING PLACE</b>	<b>DISABLED ACCESS</b>
SA/3003 2 stations	The Community Hall (Duchy Suite, Higham Ferrers Junior School, Saffron Road, Higham Ferrers	Yes
<b>RETURNING OFFICER'S INITIAL PROPOSALS</b>		<b>REASON/S</b>
No change unless a more suitable alternative can be found		Whilst this venue may be the only suitable building available, we would nevertheless like to invite any proposals for an alternative

<b>HIGHAM FERRERS LANCASTER</b>		
<b>POLLING DISTRICT/ ELECTORS</b>	<b>POLLING PLACE</b>	<b>DISABLED ACCESS</b>
RL/372	Chelveston Village Hall, Caldecott Road, Chelveston-cum-Caldecott	Yes
SB/1420 2 stations	Henry Chichele Primary School, School Lane, Higham Ferrers	Yes
SC/1694 2 stations	Hensman Hall, Chichele Street, Higham Ferrers	Yes
SQ/53	Newton Bromswold Memorial Hall, Rushden Road, Newton Bromswold	Yes
<b>RETURNING OFFICER'S INITIAL PROPOSALS</b>		<b>REASON/S</b>
No change for these venues unless more suitable alternatives can be found. If closure of the school on polling day can be avoided, this would be welcomed		Whilst these venues may be the only suitable buildings available, we would nevertheless like to invite any proposals for alternatives. If there is an alternative available for the school, it may avoid closure on polling day (unless the headmaster is able to propose segregating the polling station from the rest of the school to avoid closure)

<b>IRTHLINGBOROUGH JOHN PYEL</b>		
<b>POLLING DISTRICT/ ELECTORS</b>	<b>POLLING PLACE</b>	<b>DISABLED ACCESS</b>
SD/3439 2 stations	College Street Centre, College Street, Irthlingborough	Yes
<b>RETURNING OFFICER'S INITIAL PROPOSALS</b>		<b>REASON/S</b>
No change unless a more suitable alternative can be found		Whilst this venue may be the only suitable building available, we would nevertheless like to invite any proposals for alternatives.

<b>IRTHLINGBOROUGH WATERLOO</b>		
<b>POLLING DISTRICT/ ELECTORS</b>	<b>POLLING PLACE</b>	<b>DISABLED ACCESS</b>
SF/2214	The Albert Underwood Room, St. Peters Church, Church Street, Irthlingborough	Yes
SG/806	Crow Hill Community Centre, 2 Fettleline Road, Irthlingborough	Yes
<b>RETURNING OFFICER'S PROPOSAL</b>		<b>REASON/S</b>
No change unless a more suitable alternative can be found		Whilst these venues may be the only suitable buildings available, we would nevertheless like to invite any proposals for alternatives.

<b>KINGS FOREST</b>		
<b>POLLING DISTRICT/ ELECTORS</b>	<b>POLLING PLACE</b>	<b>DISABLED ACCESS</b>
RD/142	Garage at Westmoreland, 11 Manor Farm, Apethorpe	Yes
RH/50	Bulwick Village Centre, Bulwick	No
RK/144	Bulwick Village Centre, Bulwick	No
RP/35	Deene Village Hall, Deene	Yes
RQ/90	Blenheim Cottage, 48 Deenethorpe	Yes with temporary ramp
SI/953	The Community Centre, 13 Kings Forest, King's Cliffe	Yes
SJ/151	Laxton Village Hall, Laxton	Yes with temporary ramp
<b>RETURNING OFFICER'S INITIAL PROPOSALS</b>		<b>REASON/S</b>
Attempts will be made to identify an alternative venue at Bulwick; there is also an argument for not continuing with the Deene station, which takes in only a very small electorate (Deenethorpe could be used for both areas). No change for the others unless a more suitable alternative can be found		No disabled access at Bulwick; cost of continuing with a separate station at Deene in view of small numbers of electors  Whilst the other venues may be the only suitable buildings available, we would nevertheless like to invite any proposals for alternatives.

<b>LOWER NENE</b>		
<b>POLLING DISTRICT/ ELECTORS</b>	<b>POLLING PLACE</b>	<b>DISABLED ACCESS</b>
RE/152	The Chequered Skipper, The Green, Ashton	Yes
RO/137	Cotterstock Village Hall, Main Street, Cotterstock	Yes
SO/98	Lutton Village Hall, Washingley Road, Lutton	Yes
SU/387	Polebrook Village Hall, Hemington Road, Polebrook	Yes with temporary ramp
UE/149	Tansor Village Hall, Main Street, Tansor	Yes
UP/780	Warmington Village Hall, 27-29 Church Street, Warmington	Yes
<b>RETURNING OFFICER'S INITIAL PROPOSALS</b>		<b>REASON/S</b>

No change unless a more suitable alternative can be found	Whilst these venues may be the only suitable buildings available, we would nevertheless like to invite any proposals for alternatives.
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LYVEDEN		
POLLING DISTRICT/ ELECTORS	POLLING PLACE	DISABLED ACCESS
RJ/1124	Brigstock Village Hall, 8 Bridge Street, Brigstock	Yes
SL/170	Germain Rooms, Drayton Road, Lowick	Yes
SM/76	Bakehouse Cottage, High Street, Slipton	No
UD/160	Sudborough Village Hall, Main Street, Sudborough	Yes
UM/146	MacQueen House, High Street, Twywell	Yes
RETURNING OFFICER'S INITIAL PROPOSALS	REASON/S	
The Slipton Polling Station is not regarded as accessible for wheelchair users and suggestions would be welcome on an alternative venue No change for the others unless more suitable alternatives can be found	The Slipton premises are accessed by steps into the main entrance and a further step into the polling station Whilst the other venues may be the only suitable buildings available, we would nevertheless like to invite any proposals for alternatives.	

Oundle		
POLLING DISTRICT/ ELECTORS	POLLING PLACE	DISABLED ACCESS
RG/297	Benefield Village Hall, Main Street, Lower Benefield	Yes
SR/2611 2 stations	The Joan Strong Centre, Herne Park, East Road, Oundle	Yes
SS/1403	The Methodist Church Hall, Drummingwell Lane, Oundle	Yes
ST/48	Caravan at The Grange, Pilton	Not wide enough for wheelchairs but ramped
UC/64	Brindlethorn, Wadenhoe Road, Stoke Doyle	Yes
UN/90	Wadenhoe Recreation Hall, Church Street, Wadenhoe	Yes
RETURNING OFFICER'S INITIAL PROPOSALS	REASON/S	
The Joan Strong Centre replaced The Drill Hall which is considered to be unfit for public use. Attempts will be made to identify more suitable premises at Pilton. No change for the others unless more suitable alternatives can be found	The Joan Strong Centre is well positioned within the polling district and offers a modern building with all the requirements for electors and staff fully met. <b>Pilton</b> – not wide enough for wheelchairs. Whilst the other venues may be the only suitable buildings available, we would nevertheless like to invite any proposals for alternatives.	

<b>PREBENDAL</b>		
<b>POLLING DISTRICT/ELECTORS</b>	<b>POLLING PLACE</b>	<b>DISABLED ACCESS</b>
RV/106	Fotheringhay Village Hall, Main Street, Fotheringhay	Yes
RW/232	Glaphorn Village Hall, Main Street, Glaphorn	Yes
SP/625	Nassington Village Hall, Church Street, Nassington	Yes
UA/143	Southwick Village Hall, Main Street, Southwick	Yes
UR/360	Woodnewton Village Hall, Orchard Lane, Woodnewton	Yes
US/248	Yarwell Village Hall, 48 Main Street, Yarwell	Yes
<b>RETURNING OFFICER'S INITIAL PROPOSALS</b>		<b>REASON/S</b>
No change for these venues unless more suitable alternatives can be found		Whilst these venues may be the only suitable buildings available, we would nevertheless like to invite any proposals for alternatives.

<b>RAUNDS SAXON</b>		
<b>POLLING DISTRICT/ELECTORS</b>	<b>POLLING PLACE</b>	<b>DISABLED ACCESS</b>
SV/3480 2 stations	The Saxon Hall, Thorpe Street/Brook Street, Raunds	Yes
<b>RETURNING OFFICER'S INITIAL PROPOSALS</b>		<b>REASON/S</b>
No change for this venue unless a more suitable alternative can be found		Whilst this venue may be the only suitable building available, we would nevertheless like to invite any proposals for alternatives.
<b>RAUNDS WINDMILL</b>		
<b>POLLING DISTRICT/ELECTORS</b>	<b>POLLING PLACE</b>	<b>DISABLED ACCESS</b>
SW/3265 2 stations	Windmill School, Windmill Lane, Raunds	Yes
<b>RETURNING OFFICER'S INITIAL PROPOSALS</b>		<b>REASON/S</b>
If closure of the school on polling day can be avoided, this would be welcomed		Whilst this venue may be the only suitable building available, we would nevertheless like to invite any proposals for alternatives which could avoid closure on polling day (unless the headmaster is able to propose segregating the polling station from the rest of the school to avoid closure)

<b>RUSHDEN BATES</b>		
<b>POLLING DISTRICT/ ELECTORS</b>	<b>POLLING PLACE</b>	<b>DISABLED ACCESS</b>
TA/605	Hope Methodist Church Hall, Park Road, Rushden	Yes
TB/2584	Hope Methodist Church Hall, Park Road, Rushden	Yes
TC/618	The John White Golf Club, Bedford Road, Rushden	Yes
<b>RETURNING OFFICER'S INITIAL PROPOSALS</b>		<b>REASON/S</b>
No change for these venues unless more suitable alternatives can be found		Whilst these venues may be the only suitable buildings available, we would nevertheless like to invite any proposals for alternatives.

<b>RUSHDEN HAYDEN</b>		
<b>POLLING DISTRICT/ ELECTORS</b>	<b>POLLING PLACE</b>	<b>DISABLED ACCESS</b>
TD/760	St Peter's Church Hall, Midland Road, Rushden	Yes with temporary ramp
TE/2397 2 stations	Denfield Park Junior School, Victoria Road, Rushden	Yes
TF/2160 2 stations	Newton Road Community Primary School, Newton Road, Rushden	Yes
<b>RETURNING OFFICER'S INITIAL PROPOSALS</b>		<b>REASON/S</b>
No change for St Peter's Hall unless a more suitable alternative can be found. If closure of the schools on polling day can be avoided, this would be welcomed		Whilst these venues may be the only suitable buildings available, we would nevertheless like to invite any proposals for alternatives. If there are alternatives available for the schools, it may avoid closure on polling day (unless the headmaster is able to propose segregating the polling station from the rest of the school to avoid closure)

<b>RUSHDEN PEMBERTON</b>		
<b>POLLING DISTRICT/ ELECTORS</b>	<b>POLLING PLACE</b>	<b>DISABLED ACCESS</b>
TH/3335 2 stations	Tennyson Road Infants School, Tennyson Road, Rushden	Yes
TJ/1652	Whitefriars Junior School, Boughton Drive, Rushden	Yes
TK/97	Whitefriars Junior School, Boughton Drive, Rushden	Yes
<b>RETURNING OFFICER'S INITIAL PROPOSALS</b>		<b>REASON/S</b>
A request has been received to consider The Pemberton Centre for TH, rather than the school. This will be examined. If closure of Whitefriars School on polling day can be avoided, this would be welcomed		The transfer of the polling place to the Pemberton Centre would avoid disruption to the school on polling day. If there is an alternative available for Whitefriars School, it may also avoid closure on polling day (unless the headmaster is able to propose segregating the polling station from the rest of the school to avoid closure). Suggestions welcome

<b>RUSHDEN SARTORIS</b>		
<b>POLLING DISTRICT/ ELECTORS</b>	<b>POLLING PLACE</b>	<b>DISABLED ACCESS</b>
TL/1589	South End Junior School and South End Infants School, Wymington Road, Rushden (alternates)	Yes
TM/1675	South End Junior School and South End Infants School, Wymington Road, Rushden (alternates)	Yes
<b>RETURNING OFFICER'S INITIAL PROPOSALS</b>		<b>REASON/S</b>
If closure of the schools on polling day can be avoided, this would be welcomed		If there are alternatives available for the schools, they may also avoid closure on polling day (unless the headmasters are able to propose segregating the polling station from the rest of the school to avoid closure). Suggestions welcome

<b>RUSHDEN SPENCER</b>		
<b>POLLING DISTRICT/ ELECTORS</b>	<b>POLLING PLACE</b>	<b>DISABLED ACCESS</b>
TO/1600	Tennyson Road Infants School, Tennyson Road Rushden	Yes
TP/833	Hayway Infants School, Hayway, Rushden	Yes
TQ/2600	Hayway Infants School, Hayway, Rushden	Yes
<b>RETURNING OFFICER'S INITIAL PROPOSALS</b>		<b>REASON/S</b>
We understand that Hayway Infants School will close and suitable alternative locations will be explored. See also comments above about Tennyson Road Infants School		To address request for ceasing to use these buildings Suggestions for alternatives welcome

<b>STANWICK</b>		
<b>POLLING DISTRICT/ ELECTORS</b>	<b>POLLING PLACE</b>	<b>DISABLED ACCESS</b>
RX/201	Hargrave Village Hall, Church Road, Hargrave	Yes
UB/1511	The Old School, High Street, Stanwick	Yes
<b>RETURNING OFFICER'S INITIAL PROPOSALS</b>		<b>REASON/S</b>
No change for these venues unless more suitable alternatives can be found		Whilst these venues may be the only suitable buildings available, we would nevertheless like to invite any proposals for alternatives.



<b>THRAPSTON LAKES</b>		
<b>POLLING DISTRICT/ ELECTORS</b>	<b>POLLING PLACE</b>	<b>DISABLED ACCESS</b>
SH/655	Islip Village Hall, 2 Old Farm Lane, Islip	Yes
UG/2867 2 stations	The Plaza Centre, Cosy Nook, Thrapston	Yes
<b>RETURNING OFFICER'S INITIAL PROPOSALS</b>		<b>REASON/S</b>
No change for these venues unless more suitable alternatives can be found		Whilst these venues may be the only suitable buildings available, we would nevertheless like to invite any proposals for alternatives.

<b>THRAPSTON MARKET</b>		
<b>POLLING DISTRICT/ ELECTORS</b>	<b>POLLING PLACE</b>	<b>DISABLED ACCESS</b>
RR/235	Denford Village Hall, Front Street, Denford	Yes
SZ/1179	Ringstead Village Hall, 9 High Street, Ringstead	Yes
UJ/1699 2 stations	East Northamptonshire House, Cedar Drive, Thrapston	Yes
<b>RETURNING OFFICER'S INITIAL PROPOSALS</b>		<b>REASON/S</b>
No change for these venues unless more suitable alternatives can be found		Whilst these venues may be the only suitable buildings available, we would nevertheless like to invite any proposals for alternatives.

<b>WOODFORD</b>		
<b>POLLING DISTRICT/ ELECTORS</b>	<b>POLLING PLACE</b>	<b>DISABLED ACCESS</b>
RA/268	Great Addington Memorial Hall, Woodford Road, Great Addington	Yes
RB/279	Chancel Cottage, High Street, Little Addington	Yes but see below
UQ/1187	Woodford Baptist Chapel, Rose Terrace, Woodford	Yes
<b>RETURNING OFFICER'S INITIAL PROPOSALS</b>		<b>REASON/S</b>
I do have reservations about accessibility for wheelchair users at Little Addington and we will take account of the findings of our Building Control Officer. Any other suggestions would be welcomed. No change for the other two venues unless more suitable alternatives can be found		Little Addington station may not be truly wheelchair accessible. Alternative suggestions welcome. Whilst the other two venues may be the only suitable buildings available, we would nevertheless like to invite any proposals for alternatives.

**POLLING DISTRICT, PLACES AND STATIONS REVIEW 2011 –  
RETURNING OFFICER'S RESPONSE TO REPRESENTATIONS  
& FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CHANGES**

<b>BARNWELL</b>		
<b>POLLING DISTRICT/ ELECTORS</b>	<b>POLLING PLACE</b>	<b>DISABLED ACCESS</b>
SK/76	Caravan at 5 Lilford	Not wide enough for wheelchairs but ramped
UF/128	Caravan at 5 Lilford	Not wide enough for wheelchairs but ramped
<b>RETURNING OFFICER'S COMMENTS/FINAL RECOMMENDATION</b>		<b>REASON/S</b>
<b>Retain caravan at this location.</b>		No suggestions on alternatives were received during the consultation. We have surveyed the parish and can find no suitable alternative premises. We propose that the Presiding Officer at any election will assist any disabled elector as much as possible – and this may mean bringing a ballot paper for completion outside the caravan

<b>HIGHAM FERRERS CHICHELE</b>		
<b>POLLING DISTRICT/ ELECTORS</b>	<b>POLLING PLACE</b>	<b>DISABLED ACCESS</b>
SA/3003 2 stations	The Community Hall (Duchy Suite, Higham Ferrers Junior School, Saffron Road, Higham Ferrers	Yes
<b>REPRESENTATIONS</b>		
<p>Councillor Richard Gell drew attention to the problems for disabled people “due to the step from the pavement to the school gate. Together with the narrowness of the pavement, this made it impossible for mobility scooters to access the playground. There was also a problem with mobility scooters that crossed the road and then could not negotiate the kerb and the step, again due to the narrowness of the pavement. The alternative for those with mobility scooters was to drive round to the main school access in Wharf Road then wind their way through the ‘closed off’ playground. Could the step be removed and replaced with a short slope?”</p>		
<b>RETURNING OFFICER'S COMMENTS/FINAL RECOMMENDATION</b>		<b>REASON/S</b>
<p>The Area Surveyor for Higham informs us that a temporary ramp would be on/over the public footpath and could constitute a hazard.</p> <p>The access via the front entrance is thought to be a better way forward and we will talk to the headmaster to ensure that the gate closing off the playground is left open on polling day.</p> <p><b>Retain the Duchy Suite as a polling station but implement the arrangement above.</b></p>		<p>No alternative suitable venue has been suggested and there were no comments or suggestions from those representing disabled interests.</p>

HIGHAM FERRERS LANCASTER		
POLLING DISTRICT/ ELECTORS	POLLING PLACE	DISABLED ACCESS
SB/1420 2 stations	Henry Chichele Primary School, School Lane, Higham Ferrers	Yes
SC/1694 2 stations	Hensman Hall, Chichele Street, Higham Ferrers	Yes
REPRESENTATIONS		
Councillor Pam Whiting drew attention to –		
<p>(a) Older people in Chichele Close having to vote at the Hensman Hall rather than the Higham Ferrers Junior School, which is close by.</p> <p>(b) Other electors in Chichele Close, Hind Stile, Market Square and College Street have also to go to the Hensman Hall.</p>		
RETURNING OFFICER'S COMMENTS/FINAL RECOMMENDATION	REASON/S	
<p>These streets are currently within the Chichele Ward. Consideration of ward boundaries is beyond the scope of the review.</p> <p><b>Retain the existing polling stations at Henry Chichele Primary School and Hensman Hall</b></p>	<p>The comments received were about the appropriateness of the ward boundary rather than the suitability of the current polling stations.</p>	

KINGS FOREST		
POLLING DISTRICT/ ELECTORS	POLLING PLACE	DISABLED ACCESS
RH/50	Bulwick Village Centre, Bulwick	No
RK/144	Bulwick Village Centre, Bulwick	No
RP/35	Deene Village Hall, Deene	Yes
RETURNING OFFICER'S COMMENTS/FINAL RECOMMENDATION	REASON/S	
<p><b>Bulwick:</b> We had hoped that the review would have identified a more suitable venue than the Bulwick Village Centre, which is not fully DDA compliant, but there is no suitable alternative.</p> <p><b>Retain the Bulwick Village Centre as a polling station.</b></p> <p><b>Deene:</b> Cease using Deene Village Hall and require electors who do not have a postal vote to use the station at Deenethorpe.</p>	<p>There is no suitable alternative and we have received no comments or suggestions from those representing disabled people. We have surveyed the parish and can find no suitable alternative premises</p> <p>We propose that the Presiding Officer at any election will assist any disabled elector as much as possible – and this may mean bringing a ballot paper for completion outside the building.</p> <p>Deene Village Hall is used by a very small number of voters and its continued use cannot be justified on cost grounds. No representations have been made by electors or special interest groups</p>	

LYVEDEN		
POLLING DISTRICT/ELECTORS	POLLING PLACE	DISABLED ACCESS
SM/76	Bakehouse Cottage, High Street, Slipton	No
RETURNING OFFICER'S COMMENTS/FINAL RECOMMENDATION		REASON/S
<p>The Slipton Polling Station is not regarded as accessible for wheelchairs (they are accessed by steps into the main entrance and a further step into the polling station). It has not, however, been possible to identify a suitable alternative.</p> <p><b>Retain Bakehouse Cottage as a polling station</b></p>		<p>No comments have been made by those representing disabled people. We have surveyed the parish and can find no suitable alternative premises. We propose that the Presiding Officer at any election will assist any disabled elector as much as possible – and this may mean bringing a ballot paper for completion outside the building</p>

OUNDLE		
POLLING DISTRICT/ELECTORS	POLLING PLACE	DISABLED ACCESS
SR/2611 2 stations	The Joan Strong Centre, Herne Park, East Road, Oundle	Yes
SS/1403	The Methodist Church Hall, Drummingwell Lane, Oundle	Yes
ST/48	Caravan at The Grange, Pilton	Not wide enough for wheelchairs but ramped

REPRESENTATIONS	
<p><b>Oundle:</b></p> <p>The Town Council asked that consideration be given to using the Queen Victoria Hall as a polling station. It has not said whether the venue would replace the Methodist Church Hall in Drummingwell Lane (the nearest station).</p> <p>Mr A Crawshaw asked that consideration be given to including Mill Road electors in the SS Polling District so that they would vote at The Methodist Church, Drumming Well Lane rather than the Joan Strong Centre. "The former is much nearer to Mill Road and is virtually on the way from Mill Road to the town centre so that people could use it en route to the shops. It would certainly be much more convenient for pedestrians".</p>	
RETURNING OFFICER'S COMMENTS/FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS	REASON/S
<p>There does not seem any justification for either adding a third polling station or replacing the Methodist Church Hall, unless a station can be identified in the north of Oundle. We have surveyed that part of the town – especially the area around the library – but have been unable to find any suitable premises.</p> <p><b>Retain both current polling stations</b></p>	<p>Queen Victoria Hall could be used if the Methodist Church Hall was unavailable. It is proposed to introduce delegation to enable decisions to be made for alternative polling stations to be chosen if any premises cannot be used as a polling station for any reason.</p> <p>There are no suitable premises in the north of the town.</p>

<p><b>Transfer electors to Polling District SS.</b></p>	<p>There is justification in transferring electors from a number of roads so they would vote at The Methodist Church Hall, rather than at the Joan Strong Centre. <b>Appendix 3</b> shows a more equitable division between the two polling districts SR and SS .</p>
<p><b>Retain caravan at the Grange, Pilton.</b></p>	<p>No comments have been made by those representing disabled people. We propose that the Presiding Officer at any election will assist any disabled elector as much as possible – and this may mean bringing a ballot paper for completion outside the building</p>

<b>RAUNDS WINDMILL</b>		
<b>POLLING DISTRICT/ ELECTORS</b>	<b>POLLING PLACE</b>	<b>DISABLED ACCESS</b>
SW/3265 2 stations	Windmill School, Windmill Lane, Raunds	Yes
<b>RETURNING OFFICER'S COMMENTS/FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS</b>		<b>REASON/S</b>
<p>Raunds Town Council, although content with the present arrangement, suggested either The St John Ambulance Room or the Cricket Pavilion if representations were made to cease using the school.</p> <p>No representations have been made by the headmaster and the two alternatives suggested are not suitable.</p> <p><b>Retain Windmill School as a Polling Station</b></p>		<p>The two alternatives are not DDA compliant</p>

<b>RUSHDEN BATES</b>		
<b>POLLING DISTRICT/ ELECTORS</b>	<b>POLLING PLACE</b>	<b>DISABLED ACCESS</b>
TA/605	Hope Methodist Church Hall, Park Road, Rushden	Yes
TB/2584	Hope Methodist Church Hall, Park Road, Rushden	Yes
<b>REPRESENTATIONS</b>		
<p>It was suggested that the Hope Methodist Church Hall would be sold in the not too distant future. An alternative – The Park Road Baptist Church – was put forward by the Wellingborough Conservative Association.</p>		
<b>RETURNING OFFICER'S COMMENTS/FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS</b>		<b>REASON/S</b>
<p>The building has been inspected and is suitable but the occupiers are unwilling to release it even for one day a year</p> <p>The owners of the Hope Methodist Hall have been approached and have said that they do not anticipate selling the property in the near future.</p> <p><b>Retain Hope Methodist Church Hall as a polling station for the present but look for alternative premises when</b></p>		<p>It is proposed to introduce delegation to enable decisions to be made for alternative polling stations to be chosen if any premises cannot be used as a polling station for any reason</p>

the building is sold	
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RUSHDEN HAYDEN		
POLLING DISTRICT/ ELECTORS	POLLING PLACE	DISABLED ACCESS
TF/2160 2 stations	Newton Road Community Primary School, Newton Road, Rushden	Yes
REPRESENTATIONS		
Wellingborough Conservative Association suggested the Hayden Road Football Club premises as an alternative.		
RETURNING OFFICER'S COMMENTS/FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS	REASON/S	
An inspection has confirmed the suitability of the premises  <b>Change the polling station to the Hayden Road Football Club in Hayden Road</b>	The change would avoid closure of the school on polling day	

RUSHDEN PEMBERTON		
POLLING DISTRICT/ ELECTORS	POLLING PLACE	DISABLED ACCESS
TH/3335 2 stations	Tennyson Road Infants School, Tennyson Road, Rushden	Yes
TJ/1652	Whitefriars Junior School, Boughton Drive, Rushden	Yes
TK/97	Whitefriars Junior School, Boughton Drive, Rushden	Yes
REPRESENTATIONS		
A request was received from the headmaster of Tennyson Road Infants School to consider The Pemberton Centre rather than the school for the TH polling district.		
Wellingborough Conservative Association suggested that Whitefriars Church (on the same site as the school) be used instead of Whitefriars Junior School.		
RETURNING OFFICER'S COMMENTS/FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS	REASON/S	
<b>Tennyson Road Infants School:</b>  It is confirmed that the Function Suite at the Pemberton is a suitable venue.  <b>Change the polling station to The Pemberton Centre</b>	The change would avoid closure of the school on polling day	
<b>Whitefriars Junior School:</b>  Although there may be a build up of cars when pupils are dropped off and picked up, an area of the car park can be reserved (use of bollards). An inspection has declared the portacabin as suitable although the space within is limited. However, only one polling station will be used, even though there are 2 polling districts (this reflects the county council ward boundaries). districts .		

<b>Change the polling station to The Whitefriars Church (The Bridge)</b>	The change would avoid closure of the school on polling day
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<b>RUSHDEN SARTORIS</b>		
<b>POLLING DISTRICT/ ELECTORS</b>	<b>POLLING PLACE</b>	<b>DISABLED ACCESS</b>
TL/1589	South End Junior School and South End Infants School, Wymington Road, Rushden (alternates)	Yes
TM/1675	South End Junior School and South End Infants School, Wymington Road, Rushden (alternates)	Yes
<b>REPRESENTATIONS</b>		
Wellingborough Conservative Association suggested that the Full Gospel Church in Bedford Road be used instead.		
<b>RETURNING OFFICER'S COMMENTS/FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS</b>	<b>REASON/S</b>	
The building has been inspected and is considered suitable.  <b>Change the polling stations to the Full Gospel Church in High Street South</b>	The change would avoid closure of the schools on polling day	

<b>RUSHDEN SPENCER</b>		
<b>POLLING DISTRICT/ ELECTORS</b>	<b>POLLING PLACE</b>	<b>DISABLED ACCESS</b>
TO/1600	Tennyson Road Infants School, Tennyson Road Rushden	Yes
TP/833	Hayway Infants School, Hayway, Rushden	Yes
TQ/2600	Hayway Infants School, Hayway, Rushden	Yes
<b>REPRESENTATIONS</b>		
A request was received from the headmaster of Tennyson Road Infants School to consider The Pemberton Centre rather than the school for the TH polling district.		
<b>Hayway Infants School:</b> Both Councillor Sarah Peacock and Wellingborough Conservative Association have suggested alternatives for the school, which is closing.		
<b>RETURNING OFFICER'S COMMENTS/FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS</b>	<b>REASON/S</b>	
<b>Tennyson Road Infants School</b> – see Pemberton Ward  <b>Hayway Infants School:</b>  The preferred alternative is The Catholic Club on the corner of Higham Road/Hayway. This has been inspected and, although there is no parking on site, on-street parking exists in Hayway and in adjoining streets. The new venue is therefore considered to be suitable.  <b>Change the polling station to the Catholic Club</b>	The change would avoid closure of the school on polling day          The school is likely to close and the club is a suitable alternative but poll cards will urge voters to use on street parking (but not in front of the club in Higham Road).	

STANWICK		
POLLING DISTRICT/ ELECTORS	POLLING PLACE	DISABLED ACCESS
UB/1511	The Old School, High Street, Stanwick	Yes
RETURNING OFFICER'S COMMENTS/FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS	REASON/S	
<p>During the inspection process, it was pointed out that the venue is no longer available and the new Community Hall in West Street will be used. This building has been inspected and apart from a requirement for signing, it is considered to be suitable.</p> <p><b>Change the polling station to the new Community Hall in West Street</b></p>	<p>The Old School is no longer available</p>	



**Review of Polling Districts - Oundle SR & SS Proposals**

**SR – Methodist Church, Drummingwell Lane**

<b>Street</b>	<b>Electorate</b>
Basset Ford Road	5
Bassett Place	13
Benefield Court, Benefield Road	8
Benefield Road	148
Black Horse Court	13
Bramston Close	24
Church Street	2
Clifton Drive	60
Danfords Close	9
Danfords	7
Drummingwell Lane	7
Gallery Lane	1
Glaphorn Road even nos. 2 – 12C (including Dryden House & Sanderson House), odd nos 1 Police House – Flat 8 The Old Sanatorium,	122
Harley Way	2
Herne Road	58
Hérons Wood Close	12
Inkerman Way	18
Lytham Park	41
Market Place	67
Mildmay Close	19
Mill Road	26
Milton Road	105
New Street	34
Pavilion Drive	58
Pexley Court	11
Prince William Road	18
Riverside Close	22
South Road	89
South Bridge Close	22
Spurlings	39
St Anns Court	16
St Osyths Lane	8
Stoke Doyle Road	33
Stoke Hill	25
Stronglands Court	33
Turners Yard	4
Wakerley Close	74
Warren Bridge	51
West Street	153
Whitwell Close	20
Wood Lane	13
Wyatt Way	61
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1551</b>

## SS – Joan Strong Centre, Herne Park

Street	Electorate
Ashton Road	43
Bellamy Road	94
Blackpot Lane	42
Bridge View	28
Cotterstock Road	67
Creed Road	140
Culme Close	41
Duck Lane	5
East Road	85
Fotheringhay Mews	8
Glaphorn Road even nos14 – 112, odd nos 65 Grey Gables – 153	144
Gordon Road	119
Hillfield Road	110
Kings Road	52
Latham Road	27
Lime Avenue	43
Mason Close	16
Millfields	64
Monson Way	88
Nene View	42
Nene Way	20
New Road	91
Newbold Close	21
North Street	106
Orchard Close	5
Riverside Maltings	44
Rock Road	124
Rockingham Hills	24
Rowell Way	27
Seymour Place	19
Siddons Close	44
Sondes Close	25
Springfield Road	168
St Christopher's Drive	60
St Peters Road	164
St Wilfrids	22
Station Road	1
Sutton Road	34
Taney Court	12
Tilley Hill Close	49
Victoria Road	57
Vine Close	11
Walcot Close	26
Watson Close	22
Webb Close	32
Wentworth Drive	91
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2557</b>



Full EIA Assessment Form

	<b>Proposal – to cease using the polling station at Deene and require electors to vote at Deenethorpe</b>
<p>14. Looking back at the Initial Screening Form, in what area(s) are there concerns that the decision being taken could have a negative impact?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">(✓ all that apply)</p>	
Gender:	
Sexual orientation:	
Race/Ethnicity	
Disability:	✓
Age	✓
Religion/Belief	
Rural isolation	✓
Socio-economic exclusion	
Any other affected groups:	
<p>16. What consultation on this decision has already taken place with groups/individuals from equality target groups?</p>	<p>Consultation in relation to access for disabled people is a statutory requirement and is being undertaken during the review.</p> <p>Letters are also being sent to appropriate groups representing the age and rural isolation aspects, and views sought. This EIA is also being published on the council's website as part of the consultation process.</p>
<p>17. What does it indicate about the negative impact of this decision?</p>	<p>No comments were received from affected groups during the consultation period.</p>
<p>18. What consultation will be conducted/is planned on this decision with equality target groups?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Age UK Northamptonshire</li> <li>• Northamptonshire association for the blind</li> <li>• Northamptonshire learning disability partnership</li> <li>• SCOPE Northamptonshire</li> <li>• Northamptonshire Rights and Equality Council</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SERVE</li> <li>• VA Oundle</li> </ul>
<b>19. Once this consultation activity has taken place, indicate the outcomes:</b>	No comments were received from affected groups during the consultation period.
20. What consultation on this decision has already taken place with staff - including those that have, or will have direct experience of implementing the Policy?	<p>Elections staff are fully aware of the legal requirements and the options available.</p> <p>The findings of the building control surveyor have also been considered.</p>
21. What does it indicate about the negative impact of this decision?	<p>The suitability of the Deenethorpe polling station has been the subject of an inspection report by the council's Building Control Surveyor and as long as a ramp is used, the station is considered to be acceptable in terms of use by disabled people.</p> <p>Report attached.</p>
22. What consultation will be conducted/is planned on this decision with staff?	Consultation with staff will continue until the end of the consultation period .
<b>23. Once this consultation activity has taken place, indicate the outcomes:</b>	Building control surveyors report attached.
24. What relevant research/data/reports concerning the equality target groups have been used in the planning of this decision and what does it tell us about the negative impact?	Guidance from the Electoral Commission and council officers dealing with equalities will be taken into account.
25. What research concerning the equality target groups needs to be conducted in relation to this decision?	None
<b>26. Once this has been carried out, what does it tell us about the negative impact?</b>	N/A
27. If there are any research gaps, are there any experts/relevant groups that can be contacted to obtain views and evidence on the issues?	N/A

<b>28. Once they have been contacted, what information have we found out?</b>	N/A
29. Is it important that we conduct/commission specific research on this issue? Explain the research required:	No
30. If we need to conduct /commission research what are the likely timescales and resource implications / costs involved?	Not applicable
31. If you require further information, what will you do in the interim to address the negative impact?	N/A
<b>32. List the changes that have been identified which will ensure that the negative impact is addressed:</b>	A postal vote marketing campaign will be conducted to encourage any negatively affected voters from Deene to vote by post.
<b>33. Have you introduced changes you planned, with any necessary training?</b>	N/A
<b>34. Does everyone involved in implementing the decision know and understand what you have done?</b>	<i>Information to follow pending the decision being approved</i>

### Equality Impact Assessment Action Plan

Action identified	Key activity	How will we know this has been achieved? (measures, milestones and dates)	Officer responsible	Quarterly progress update
Encouraging postal voting	Marketing campaign?	More postal voters registered	Electoral Services	

**Planned date for next EIA exercise**

**Polling Stations – Accessibility – (reasonable provision/Part M)**Location/Polling Station No: DEBETHORPE (48)

<b>Grounds of Polling Station</b>	<b>Yes/No</b>	<b>Comment</b>
Is the building accessible for someone in a wheelchair or with mobility problems?	Y	STEP
Is it possible to use an alternative or more accessible entrance?	N	
Is it a level approach?	N	
If it is a ramped approach, is a temporary ramp needed?	Y	
Is a minimum 1500mm of surface width provided?	Y	
Is approach surface firm/durable/slip resistant?	Y	
Is access route clearly identified and well lit?	Y	
Car parking – Is there suitable access for vehicles transporting disabled person?	Y	
Does the car parking area have suitable surfacing etc?	Y	
Any other hazards?		
<b>Access into the building and inside the Polling Station</b>		
Do doors when open provide a 775m clear opening? (assumed head-on approach)	Y	
Can someone in a wheelchair or with mobility/sight problems open and get through the door safely?	Y	
Does the door open outwards onto a restricted space?	N	
Is there a door threshold/cill which would require a temporary ramp?	Y	
Is there a mat well which could be hazardous to someone with poor mobility/eyesight?	N	
Are access corridors wide enough to allow wheelchair/walking frame access?	Y	
Any internal steps requiring temporary ramps or removal?	N	
Is the access route clearly illuminated?	Y	
Are floors even with non-slip surfacing?	Y	

**Toilet Accommodation**

Not to be checked. It is assumed that toilet accommodation will be provided for polling staff only and that there will not be any disabled polling staff requiring specialist toilet accommodation.