

Public Document Pack



BLACKPOOL COUNCIL

Tuesday, 22 November 2022

To: The Members of Blackpool Council

Madam Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of **Blackpool Council** to be held in the Council Chamber at the Town Hall, Blackpool on Wednesday, 30 November 2022 commencing at 6.00pm for the transaction of the business specified below.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Lewis".

Director of Governance and Partnerships

Business

1 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members are asked to declare any interests in the items under consideration and in doing so state:

(1) the type of interest concerned either a

- (a) personal interest
- (b) prejudicial interest
- (c) disclosable pecuniary interest (DPI)

and

(2) the nature of the interest concerned

If any member requires advice on declarations of interests, they are advised to contact the Head of Democratic Governance in advance of the meeting.

2 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 21 SEPTEMBER 2022 (Pages 1 - 6)

To agree the minutes of the last meeting held on 21 September 2022 as a true and correct record.

3 ANNOUNCEMENTS

To receive official announcements from the Mayor.

4 EXECUTIVE REPORTS (Pages 7 - 30)

To consider the attached reports to Council from the Corporate, Place and People portfolios.

Members are reminded that:

- The Lead Executive Member has up to three minutes to present the report, after which there will be a period of no longer than 25 minutes per report for questions/comments (a green card will give a one minute warning, red for the end of the debate).
- There will be three minutes per question/ comment from any Councillor on anything within the portfolio and no limit to the number of times a Councillor can ask a question.
- There will be a period of up to 25 minutes for responses from any Cabinet Member on their area of responsibility at the end of the questions/ comments for each report.

5 POLLING DISTRICT AND POLLING PLACE REVIEW (Pages 31 - 62)

The Council will be asked to consider the review of polling districts and polling places under the new ward boundaries that will come into force at the local elections in May 2023.

6 REVISED POLITICAL BALANCE AND MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES (Pages 63 - 72)

The Council will be asked to consider the re-appointment of its committees, in accordance with the Council's Constitution and the Local Government Act 1972, due to changes in the political make-up following the by-election.

7 REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL (Pages 73 - 80)

The Council will be asked to consider the report of the Independent Remuneration Panel.

8 SCRUTINY UPDATE REPORT (Pages 81 - 86)

The Council will be asked to consider the update on scrutiny activity undertaken in the 2022/2023 Municipal Year to date.

9 HEALTH OF THE OCEAN - RECOMMENDATION FROM THE TOURISM, ECONOMY AND COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (Pages 87 - 92)

The Council will be asked to consider the recommendation from the Tourism, Economy and Communities Scrutiny Committee in relation to the health of the ocean.

10 REVIEW OF THE CONSTITUTION (Pages 93 - 140)

The Council will be asked to consider amendments to the Articles of the Council and the Procedural Standing Orders for Council and Committee meetings.

Venue information:

First floor meeting room (lift available), accessible toilets (ground floor), no-smoking building.

Other information:

For queries regarding this agenda please contact Sarah Chadwick, Democratic Governance Senior Adviser, Tel: (01253) 477153, e-mail sarah.chadwick@blackpool.gov.uk

Copies of agendas and minutes of Council and committee meetings are available on the Council's website at www.blackpool.gov.uk.

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Present:

Councillor Benson (in the Chair)

Councillors

Brookes	Cross	B Mitchell	Smith
Burdess	Farrell	M Mitchell	Stansfield
Cain	Galley	O'Hara	Taylor
Mrs Callow JP	Hobson	Owen	Walsh
Campbell	Hugo	Robertson BEM	L Williams
Clapham	Hunter	Roberts	T Williams
D Coleman	Hutton	D Scott	Wilshaw
G Coleman	Jackson	Mrs Scott	
Cox	Kirkland	R Scott	
Critchley	Matthews	Sloman	

In Attendance:

Neil Jack, Chief Executive

John Blackledge, Director of Community and Environmental Services

Alan Cavill, Director of Communications and Regeneration

Steve Thompson, Director of Resources

Mark Towers, Director of Governance and Partnerships/Monitoring Officer

Lorraine Hurst, Head of Democratic Governance

Sarah Chadwick, Democratic Governance Senior Adviser

1 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

2 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETINGS HELD ON 22 JUNE 2022 AND 8 SEPTEMBER 2022

Resolved: That the minutes of the Council meetings held on 22 June 2022 and 8 September 2022 be signed by the Mayor as a correct record.

3 RESOLUTION OF CONDOLENCE - HER LATE MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II

The Council paid tribute to her late Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II who had sadly passed away on 8 September 2022.

The following resolution of condolence was then moved:

‘The Council, on behalf of the people of Blackpool, expresses its profound sorrow on the passing of Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and extends its deepest sympathy to His Majesty King Charles III and to the members of the Royal family in their loss’.

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING - WEDNESDAY, 21 SEPTEMBER 2022

Motion carried: The motion on being submitted to the Council was carried unanimously.

Council then held a minute's silence as a mark of respect.

4 RESOLUTION OF CONDOLENCE - COUNCILLOR JOHN WING

The Council also noted the sad news of the death of Councillor John Wing.

Councillors R Scott, Taylor and G Coleman paid tribute to Councillor Wing and the following resolution of condolence was then moved:

'The Council sends its deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Councillor John Wing for their loss and places on record its recognition of his dedication to office'.

Motion carried: The motion on being submitted to the Council was carried unanimously.

Council then held a minute's silence as a mark of respect.

5 ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor on behalf of the Council expressed her thanks to Council officers for their work in relation to arrangements following the death of Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and proclamation of His Majesty King Charles III. Condolences with respect to Her Late Majesty's death were also submitted on behalf of Blackpool Veterans from Councillor Derek Robertson, the Armed Forces Champion.

The Mayor also informed members that Mrs Elaine Smith MBE had contacted her to pass on her thanks to the Council for the Blackpool Medal award and kind words expressed at the special meeting held on 8 September 2022.

6 EXECUTIVE REPORTS AND COMBINED FIRE AUTHORITY REPORT

The Council received reports from the Executive Lead Members on work undertaken in the Corporate, Place and People portfolio areas. The reports covered corporate, strategic and policy issues, together with work being undertaken in transforming services and with partners.

Members also received a report from representatives of the Lancashire Combined Fire Authority in relation to the work being undertaken by the authority.

Questions, comments and debate were invited from all councillors on each of the report areas.

Notes:

1. Councillor Cain joined the meeting during the presentation of agenda item 6a, Executive Member Report – Corporate Portfolio.

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING - WEDNESDAY, 21 SEPTEMBER 2022

2. Councillor L Williams, Leader of the Council advised that she would provide a written response to:
 - Councillor T Williams with details of costs of the work in relation to Abingdon Street market redevelopment and synopsis of the project and schedule
 - Councillor R Scott on progress in relation to the site formerly occupied by Brannigans.
3. In response to comments from Councillor Sloman on the number of private residential spaces for children in care in Blackpool, Councillor Hobson agreed to provide a written response regarding strategies to discourage other local authorities from importing children with complex care needs into the Blackpool area.
4. Councillor Farrell agreed to:
 - Clarify information in relation to the availability of Covid vaccinations including those in the South Shore area and to address difficulties experienced by elderly and vulnerable residents in accessing information
 - Provide a written response to Councillor D Coleman on accessibility to the Vitaline service in view of British Telecom's digitalisation of the telephone service.
5. In response to a request from Councillor R Scott, Councillor Campbell agreed to provide details of any Covid funding received by schools and how the funding had been spent.
6. Councillor Hugo agreed to provide a written response to:
 - Councillor T Williams on the use of any honey produced by the bee hives installed in Revoe Community Gardens.
7. Members of the Council agreed a short adjournment for five minutes following the presentation of the Executive Member Report – Place Portfolios.
8. Councillor Roberts left the meeting during the adjournment.

7 APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES

Members considered proposals in relation to the re-appointment of its committees, as a result of changes in the political make-up of two of the political groups. Debate took place on the report and a number of views were expressed.

Motion: Councillor L Williams proposed (and Councillor Taylor seconded):

- '1. To re-appoint the following Council committees, with powers and duties as set out in the Council's Constitution:
 - Adult Social Care and Health Scrutiny Committee
 - Tourism, Economy and Communities Scrutiny Committee
 - Children and Young People's Scrutiny Committee
 - Audit Committee
 - Appeals Committee

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING - WEDNESDAY, 21 SEPTEMBER 2022

- Planning Committee
 - Standards Committee
 - Chief Officers Employment Committee
2. To re-appoint a Scrutiny Leadership Board, with the powers set out in the Council's constitution and for the Board to continue to have an adjusted political balance membership of three Labour, four Conservative (to be made up of the Chairs, Vice Chairs of the three Scrutiny Committees and the Chair of the Audit Committee).
 3. To continue the inclusion of the non-aligned member Councillor Mrs Callow to the Board and to also appoint her as Chair of the Scrutiny Leadership Board.
 4. To agree the political balance attached at Appendix 7(a) to the Council report and appointments to the above committees at Appendix 7(b).
 5. To re-appoint the Licensing Committee with the powers and duties as set out in the Constitution (equating to a revised membership figure of 12 and a composition of six Labour, five Conservative and one Blackpool Independent).
 6. To request the Licensing Committee to re-appoint the Public Protection Sub-Committee, with the powers and duties, as set out in the Constitution including the appointment of the Chair and Vice-Chair.
 7. To agree that any membership changes to committees or sub-committees during the remainder of the Municipal Year be reported to the Director of Governance and Partnerships by the relevant Group Leader for implementation.
 8. To agree to the memberships of the committees of the Council and their Chairs and Vice Chairs as set out in Appendix 7(b) (to be circulated separately).
 9. To note the membership of the Health and Wellbeing Board, as this is unaffected by political balance arrangements.
 10. To agree that the Director of Governance and Partnerships be authorised to amend the Constitution accordingly'.

Motion carried: The motion was submitted to the Council and carried.

8 ADVERTISING ON PRIVATE HIRE AND HACKNEY CARRIAGE VEHICLES

Motion: Having submitted notice, Councillor T Williams (and Councillor Clapham seconded):

'The taxi companies have recently been presented with further cost challenges caused by rising fuel costs and road closures around the resort.

The Council currently has a mixture of Private Hire and Hackney Carriage vehicles all with different liveries.

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING - WEDNESDAY, 21 SEPTEMBER 2022

To increase their revenue streams and promote local and regional business the council should permit advertising on both Hackney Carriage and Private Hire vehicles with an agreed type of content. It is noted that advertising approved by the licensing service is already permitted on Hackney Carriage vehicles.

The Council requests the Chief Executive to arrange a meeting with a nominated officer and the directors/owners of taxi companies to discuss the viability of a more enhanced combined advertising programme utilising the services of a preferred advertising agency and the council tourism office.

Any recommendations from this meeting to be subject of a report to the relevant Committee/s to allow any change of policy needed.

The intent would be collective campaigns where advertising revenue is shared on an equal basis between vehicles and the companies to formulate a payment procedure for their drivers'.

Members then went on to debate the motion.

Motion lost: The motion was submitted to the Council and was lost.

Mayor

(The meeting ended at 8.17 pm)

Any queries regarding these minutes, please contact:
Lorraine Hurst, Head of Democratic Governance
Tel: 01253 477127
E-mail: lorraine.hurst@blackpool.gov.uk

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CORPORATE PORTFOLIOS

The 'Corporate' portfolio consists of:

- Councillor Lynn Williams – Leader of the Council
- Councillor Ivan Taylor – Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Partnerships and Performance

The full details of the portfolio areas can be found on the Council's website at <https://www.blackpool.gov.uk/Your-Council/Your-councillors/Executive-members.aspx>

Strategic Issues

Financial Year 2022/23 Monitoring

Over the 12-year period since 2011/12, the Council has had to make cumulative Revenue Budget savings of £194.6m – this is more than the Council's current annual Net Requirement Budget of £160m. The compound effect means that nearly £1.4bn of resource has been removed from the Blackpool economy, one of the highest cuts per head of population across local authorities in England, at the very time our residents need more help.

The principles of the Medium-Term Financial Sustainability Strategies 2016/17-21/22 and 2021/22-26/27 have been used to deliver budget savings plans year after year. However, soaring market costs for support for vulnerable children and increased demand for adult social care provision plus the rising costs of providing care are still creating a burden that current levels of local taxation and Government funding struggle to meet. Government promises to refund additional Covid spending have fallen well short of the actual costs, pushing a cost of £3.16m in 2020/21 and £2.59m in 2021/22 to the Council.

The last 12 years has seen unprecedented volatility within local government finance: 9 years of successive central government funding cuts between 2011/12 – 19/20 were followed by the United Kingdom's exit from the European Union, 2 years of a global pandemic with ongoing consequences and now a war within the European continent. This has all conspired to produce a perfect storm of labour and supply shortages, pay demands and spiralling inflation, with rising interest rates an attempt to stem the pressure. I remain immensely proud of all of our staff, frontline and back office, who have worked unstintingly to cut costs and innovate. This has allowed us to keep our annual budget in line with statutory requirements at the same time as keeping our reserves and balances stable, enabling us to consistently fund and deliver the

ambitions of successive administrations to deliver for the people of Blackpool. However because of the afore mentioned factors, we do not know when we will be able to bring a report which can bring more reassurance over our medium-term financial position.

Budget Performance

The full-year forecast position at this stage of 2022/23 shows a deterioration in the Council's financial standing with working balances expected to fall by £11,418k to a surplus of £795k by the end of 2022/23.

The adverse full-year forecast budget variance as at the end of month 5 of 2022/23 is exceptionally high at £11.4 million. As in previous years, some of these come from within our services and staff are working hard on options to resolve these, as they have for each of the last 12 years. But the biggest share is the £6.2m of pressures which are coming from outside the authority, comprising of costs associated with the national pay award, increased energy and utility bills, and interest rates, causing a sector-wide crisis. We urge the government to intervene across Local Government in England with financial support to resolve these issues, which were not caused by Blackpool, but which Blackpool Council has to carry the cost for.

Medium Term Financial Plan Update and Earmarked Reserves Forecast

The 6-year Medium Term Financial Sustainability Strategy (MTFSS) covering 2021/22 – 2026/27 was approved by the Executive on 8 November 2021 and whilst the principles still stand, the current economic climate has had a significant impact on the supporting Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP).

Inflationary pressures and service demand have now altered the outlook for the worse and created a great deal of additional uncertainty. In addition to issues mentioned elsewhere in this report, challenges in recruitment and retention of staff are also contributing to a situation in which Council finances are under considerable strain.

When accounting for current conditions, the annual forecast budget gap for 2023/24 is £35.11 million, with gaps of £7.90m, £6.93m and £7.82m over the following three years. We must plan to address this despite the fact that much-delayed Government reforms of Local Government finance such as the reset of business rates and the implementation of the Fair Funding formula review are expected to result in additional funding for Blackpool.

To be clear, despite consistently delivering a balanced budget in previous years faced with huge financial challenges, the extreme situation this year means the only realistic option to address the budget gap is significant additional funding from the government. The level of uncertainty means we have made a number of assumptions and in view of the level of volatility, we will report these monthly in advance of setting the budget at Council in February 2023.

As part of this budget planning process a detailed exercise has also been undertaken on Earmarked Revenue Reserves to check the validity of amounts held and to forecast of when funds will be drawn down covering the same period as the latest Medium Term Financial Sustainability Strategy. This shows that we expect reserves to total £65.4m by the end of 2021/22, reducing to £49.2m in 22/23, £44.7m in 23/24, £42.6m in 24/25, £42m in 25/26, and to £41.6m in 26/27.

Courts money to provide new facilities, and enable Blackpool Central development

We were pleased to welcome back to Blackpool Michael Gove as Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities. In a very constructive visit, we took the opportunity to discuss our future plans with him and he was very receptive to our ideas. As part of the visit we received confirmation that the Government has now identified £40m capital funding for the provision of new Magistrates and County Courts. After working closely with both Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunal Service and Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, this announcement comes as excellent news as it will both create a new Court complex and enable the Blackpool Central regeneration scheme to go ahead as planned, creating an estimated 1,000 jobs, and boosting the local economy with an additional 600,000 visitors. The largest single investment in Blackpool for over a century, Blackpool Central will see the area transformed into a year-round leisure destination, home to new entertainment centres, hotels, restaurants and a new public square and Heritage Quarter. This investment represents the culmination of years of hard work and determination, and delivers one of our top asks on Levelling Up.

British-Irish Council meeting

We were very proud that Blackpool played host to the 38th British-Irish Council meeting at the Boulevard Hotel on 11 November 2022, reflecting the confidence and significance of Blackpool across the British Isles. The first to be attended by a UK Prime Minister since 2007, the leaders of the 7 administrations were joined by the Scottish minister for Green Skills, Circular Economy and Biodiversity, discussing sustainable economic growth and regeneration amongst other key topics. During the two-day conference, delegates had the chance to see some of our exciting projects, including visits to the enterprise zone, meeting our team at Lightworks and Blackpool and the Fylde College's Energy Headquarters. The Chief Executive gave a speech about our ambitious plans for the town and to introduce the Prime Minister. It was great to hear him use his speech to commit himself and his Government to Levelling Up and supporting Blackpool's vision.

Investment Zone: seeing the potential in Blackpool

The Council submitted an Expression of Interest in establishing an Investment Zone by 14 October 2022 in line with government requirements. The Investment Zone designation would provide the potential for significant long-term benefits to Blackpool's local economy, particularly around job

creation and investment. Specified sites would benefit from a range of time-limited tax incentives over 10 years. The tax incentives under consideration are:

- 100% relief from business rates on newly occupied business premises
- Enhanced Capital Allowance
- Enhanced Structures and Buildings Allowance
- Employer National Insurance contributions relief
- Stamp Duty Land Tax– a full Stamp Duty Land Tax relief for land and buildings bought for use or development for commercial purposes, and for purchases of land or buildings for residential developers.

After an assessment on an area-by-area basis, to ascertain which parts of the town would potentially benefit most from Investment Zone status and which were most likely to be successful, the Blackpool submission included Central Blackpool and an expanded Blackpool Airport Enterprise Zone.

The Central Blackpool area covers a substantial part of Blackpool's inner area, from Talbot Gateway in the north to Bloomfield Road in the south, and incorporates various sites utilised for retail, office, leisure, light industry and housing. The boundary was chosen to incorporate many of the development sites either currently underway or earmarked for development in the near future within Blackpool's central area. The elements of Investment Zone status aimed at improving housing standards nationally will also be of significant benefit within Central Blackpool, with areas that have been the subject of discussions between Blackpool Council and the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, regarding wide scale improvements to standards of living, also encapsulated within the Central Blackpool Investment Zone boundary.

The Blackpool Airport Enterprise Zone area covers all of the existing Enterprise Zone site, but extends the boundaries to cover new areas to the south of the runway, to the south-east of the airport's current extent, and to the west of the existing Enterprise Zone. The extension sits within the Fylde Borough boundary and has been agreed with them and Lancashire County Council (as the Upper Tier Local Authority), with the site also being included within the Lancashire County Council Expression of Interest. The boundary is proposed in order to capitalise on the success of the existing Blackpool Airport Enterprise Zone and to extend the benefits available in the area, both in terms of geographical coverage and timeline, for businesses looking to locate and grow in Blackpool. Whilst the existing Enterprise Zone has seen over 2,000 gross jobs added to the site, fiscal benefits available to new businesses locating in the area are coming to an end in 2023 and Investment Zone status would allow for these and the other benefits of Investment Zones to be available for a further 10 year period.

Having undertaken all of this work, it is now clear that the Investment Zone proposals will not be taken forward by this Government. I am sure all my colleagues on the Council would call for government to maintain these measures in their future proposals.

External Funding Bids – waiting for news

The Council is waiting on news about our Levelling Up Fund bids to create the Multiversity purpose built net zero emissions educational facility, a new boutique hotel at the former Post Office changes and the Town Centre Access Scheme to improve public realm, benefiting walking, cycling and bus access and improving how people can change between modes of transport. Reports suggest a decision on successful bids will now be made in late December.

As previously reported, the development and submission of the Shared Prosperity Fund Investment Plan outlined 13 capital and revenue projects under the themes of Communities and Place, Local Business and People and Skills. A decision on the investment plan is imminent.

Corporate Issues

A new anchor tenant at Houndshill

It is with great pride that, after a prolonged period of negotiations which I have been quizzed about regularly at full Council, I am delighted that we have finally been able to confirm that the former Debenhams will reopen as a brand new department store. Blackpool Council and the centre's management company, Ellandi, have announced that the Frasers Group will bring their key brands including Frasers, luxury fashion brand Flannels, Beauty and Fragrance and Sports Direct into the unit to join the existing shopping centre offer. The department store is expected to open in 2023 following an extensive fit-out of the 100,000 square foot. unit. The Council has worked hard to find the right tenant for the shopping centre and this addition will drive footfall for other businesses, and improve the shopping experience for the whole Fylde Coast and Lancashire.

Alongside this, work on Houndshill Phase 2 is progressing well with the steel work now complete. Meanwhile, concrete pouring to for the floor slab is continuing, and work has now begun on the cladding system for the building, meaning we will shortly get a real sense of how this latest addition to our town centre will improve the look of the area.

Council Tax and Business Rates

Despite the current cost of living crisis, the Council Tax collection rate at the end of September 2022 was marginally ahead of the position at the same time last year at 50.47%. Business Rates collection at the end September 2022 was also up at 53.32%.

The Council is also in the process of allocating discretionary energy rebates to a number of households prior to the deadline at the end November. As always, I would urge any residents experiencing financial difficulty to get in touch so we can assess whether we can offer any further support with their circumstances.

Wholly-Owned Companies

The consolidated forecast financial position of the Council's wholly-owned subsidiary companies is a loss of £1.35m based on their individual Month 5 financial monitoring reports. This represents a deterioration of £0.04m from the position at Month 4 largely as a result of inflationary pressures, including fuel costs, utilities and wage pressures, coupled with reduced customer receipts resulting from patronage reductions, offset by improved income forecasts.

New Payroll system up and running

After a long period of planning and testing the transition across to the new HR and Payroll system commenced in October 2022 with the payroll element of the new iTrent system being used for the first time to make salary payments.

During October 2022 over 6,700 payslips were issued across 27 individual payrolls, including other Councils, schools and our wholly-owned companies which purchase a payroll service from us, with the associated payments totalling in the region of £9.8 million.

This is just the first stage of the rollout, with the Employee and Manager Self-Serve modules next to go live. Our staff have done a great job so far on such a critical system, and I would like to praise our Payroll, HR, ICT, Health and Safety and Finance teams for all their hard work.

Working with Partners

Visitor Numbers: continuing to bounce back

The speed and scale of Blackpool's post-pandemic recovery has been confirmed in new tourism figures. The annual STEAM report, which analyses data from tourism and hospitality businesses, shows that the resort attracted a record number of almost 19million visitors in 2021 – despite losing the first four months of the year to COVID lockdowns and restrictions. The total figure of 18.81m is more than double the figure recorded in 2020 when pandemic restrictions on tourism were at the most severe level and 4% higher than the pre-pandemic year of 2019.

October Half-Term – Fireworks and Lightpool both dazzle the crowds

We enjoyed a busy October half term aided by a spectacular programme of events including back-to-back firework displays. The displays, one by Finland as part of the World Fireworks Championship and the other a showcase event by Titanium, each attracted an estimated 50,000 people to the Promenade. This year's championship was won by the Celtic Fireworks Team from Wales.

Meanwhile, the award-winning Lightpool festival returned for 16 nights in October with a spectacular programme of light-based art installations, live performance, 3D projection shows and family-friendly activities.

The Art Trail included international works from France and the Netherlands, with new installations never seen before in the UK. The festival, which ran from October 14-29 also saw the part-unveiling of Odyssey, the biggest standalone light installation ever produced by our own Illuminations team at Lightworks. The huge installation, which has been co-created by international designer Jack Irving and a team from Lancaster University, will be completed ahead of the opening of the Christmas By The Sea village and remain in place throughout the extended Illuminations season.

Christmas By The Sea is back!

Blackpool's spectacular Christmas village is back this winter – thanks to the resort's tourism businesses and national broadband providers, TalkTalk. The Tourism Business Improvement District (TBID), which represents hundreds of tourism operators, has joined forces with sponsors TalkTalk to fund the event during the extended Illuminations season. Last year, Christmas By The Sea delivered the highest visitor numbers ever recorded on the seafront during the winter months, and has been nominated in the "Best Large Event 2021" category in the forthcoming Lancashire Tourism Awards.

Situated on the Tower Festival Headland opposite The Blackpool Tower, this year's village will run until 2 January 2023. It includes a free skating rink, festive light installations and projection shows, themed log cabins, artificial snowfalls, Christmas trees, Christmas tram rides and the Star Flyer ride. Further Council support comes via a discounted car parking offer on most Council car parks for the duration of the event.

Transforming Services

Social Value – continuing to deliver lasting change

The Council continues to refine its approach to delivering and monitoring social value and we intend to pilot a monitoring system in the New Year to help us track progress more effectively.

We believe that regeneration can help strengthen communities as well as the economy. So far, our current regeneration projects – Holiday Inn, Conference Centre, Colton House, Houndshell, Showtown, the Sports facility at the Enterprise Zone, and the Troutbeck housing development – have delivered £22.8 million of social and economic value to the town. Most projects have managed to exceed their social value targets despite the challenges of Covid, which is a result of us working closely with suppliers so they understand Blackpool's challenges and adapt accordingly. We are increasingly working with suppliers earlier in the procurement process, allowing us to maximise the benefit for the town.

The most tangible impact is around employment and skill outcomes, where projects have worked closely with employment teams and delivery partners to provide opportunities for local people who are long-term unemployed, NEETs (young people who are not currently engaging with employment, education or training).

But suppliers have also been working well in supporting our communities and using local SME's (Small and Medium Enterprises) to help deliver projects, which contributes to the town's resilience and local economy. In the future, we hope to secure further support for protecting our natural environment and looking to suppliers to reduce their carbon footprint.

PLACE PORTFOLIOS

The 'Place' portfolio consists of:

- Councillor Lynn Williams - Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Tourism, Arts and Culture
- Councillor Ivan Taylor – Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Partnerships and Performance (Housing)
- Councillor Neal Brookes - Cabinet Member for Enforcement, Public Safety, Highways and Transport
- Councillor Jane Hugo - Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Environment
- Councillor Mark Smith - Cabinet Member for Business, Enterprise and Job Creation

The full details of the portfolio areas can be found on the Council's website at <https://www.blackpool.gov.uk/Your-Council/Your-councillors/Executive-members.aspx>

Strategic Issues

Town Deal Scheme update

All seven Town Deal projects have now commenced delivery, and I am pleased to say that “**The Platform**” (formally titled The Youth Hub) has been in operation since 1 October 2022 having successfully completed as a Community Renewal Fund project. Progress on the other strands is as follows:

Blackpool Airport Enterprise Zone Infrastructure (£7.5m Town Deal)

The scheme will create and refurbish highways to open up 10.5 hectares of development sites that will attract jobs and investment within the Blackpool Airport Enterprise Zone, contributing to the gross total of 2,137 jobs facilitated since April 2016.

Designs are still being developed as information is received from various parties relating to statutory requirements, but outline planning consent was secured on 11 October for the development of the former Common Edge sports pitches to provide 10.5 Ha of commercial development land and included the new Eastern Gateway access road and major upgrades to School Road junction and to Common Edge Road. The application has been submitted to the Secretary of State for confirmation as the site sits within the current Blackpool Green belt.

The sports centre car park is complete and building utilities are expected to complete in November 2022, which includes the provision of two Electric Vehicle charging points in line with the Council's forthcoming strategy. Construction has also commenced on the new 3G floodlit football pitch and a new grass Rugby League pitch, which will complete the community sports facilities, with the floodlit facility scheduled to come into operation in April 2023. The contract to build the new Common Edge Sports pavilion will be completed by the year-end, and the facility will be fully open in early 2023, following conclusion of work on the Division Lane Junction in January. There will be a public event in December 2022 to engage with local residents. Further detailed site investigations to assist the highway design are scheduled to commence at the end of November until March, and will unavoidably result in some traffic disruption and delay on the Queensway/ Common Edge route between Blackpool and St Annes.

Revoe Community Sports Village (£6.5m Town Deal)

The project will aid the regeneration of the Revoe area, creating jobs and encouraging over 1,700 people to engage in health and well-being activities through the creation of a new community sports facilities on a cleared and rehabilitated site. The first planning application has now been submitted for the community sports pitches with a second for the new East Stand to be submitted early next year. Letters have been issued to all properties in and around the Henry Street and surrounding area in late October. Later this month, a second letter will be mailed out to properties which need to be acquired for the scheme.

The Edge (£4.5m Town Deal)

The scheme will redevelop/refurbish the historic Stanley Buildings within the town centre, creating 1,200m² of modern office space, where start-up and growing businesses can locate and /or access business advice. The scheme also has £2,278,368 of Council funding. Construction costs continue to be subject to a value engineering process in the light of tender costs received.

The Illuminations (£4.5m Town Deal)

With £8.75m of Council funding together with the Town Deal funds, the scheme will upgrade the Illuminations to attract 1,750,000 additional visitors (by 2026) by improving the associated infrastructure and developing new features using novel and environmentally friendly lighting. The new Odyssey illumination is in place on the promenade and the team are working with artists including Chila Kumari, Singh Burman and also a Canadian artist regarding next year's illuminations.

Multiversity land acquisition (£9m Town Deal)

The Multiversity land acquisition will enable the relocation of Blackpool and the Fylde College's Park Road campus through the assembly of a land parcel close to Blackpool's town centre.

This will create a world-class university learning environment in partnership to help address anticipated local skills shortages. All properties have been written to and negotiations with residents and commercial property owners are well underway with several properties already acquired. The decision on £40m of Levelling Up Fund money is integral to delivering this £65m scheme.

Blackpool Central Courts Relocation (£6.95m Town Deal)

The Town Deal project is for the relocation of the Courts which will allow the demolition, clearing and remediation of the current courts building and plot to further open up 'Blackpool Central', a £300m leisure development, which will create a year-round, world-class visitor attraction. The announcement of funding to relocate the existing court buildings means that the scheme can now bring in exciting new leisure attractions to the resort for both visitors and resident to enjoy. In the meantime the construction of the new multi storey car park is now well underway with much of the foundation works now completed and the contractors shortly moving on to the erection of the steel frame. The car park is planned for completion during August 2023, with the final configuration of electric vehicle chargers now confirmed as including a mix of fast and rapid car chargers. Developers Nikal Limited will then be looking to progress onto the remodelling and refurbishment of the historic King Edwards buildings during Autumn/Winter of 2023, before progressing on with the construction of main leisure attractions in 2024.

Programme Management

The Council's Programme Management Office (PMO) continue to undertake programme monitoring activity based on a quarterly claims process, and comply with Government mandatory financial and monitoring and evaluation requirements. Payment of grant is dependent upon the receipt of satisfactory interim reports, which often require to be signed-off by the Council's statutory Chief Finance Officer.

The Council received a positive response from the Government Assurance and Compliance Team on 30 September regarding the Assurance review process for Town Deals undertaken earlier this year, when they confirmed they had not identified any issues. Blackpool has therefore not been selected for a second "line of defence" "deep dive" review, as the team has sufficient confidence in our governance processes.

It was originally anticipated that the 6 operational schemes would have committed £17,102,135 of spend by the end of March 2023. So far, the government has defrayed costs of £3,523,165.52, indicating that we will not have incurred this spend in line with the original timescales. We are in an ongoing dialogue with Government via returns and our working relationship to keep them informed of the position, and they are currently comfortable with how the project and spend is progressing.

Climate Emergency Update

The COP27 conference has been another urgent reminder of the need for immediate action on climate, but with recent reports casting doubt on our collective will to limit the global average temperature rise to 1.5 degrees, the focus is increasingly on how we adapt to more extreme weather alongside measures we can take to lessen the increase. There is a particular focus on flooding, with an upcoming Community Flood Resilience Policy set for discussion and a response to a recent report on localised flooding also being prepared. Meanwhile, work continues on measures to mitigate the temperature rise, with discussions underway on how the Council can make use of solar panels across our estate, and with the Council's Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy out to public consultation until December. The Council is also at the forefront of thinking about Air Quality, with a new strategy out to internal consultation well in advance of national requirements requiring this, whilst internally a Sustainability Impact Assessment process has been rolled out to make sure that the environment is considered in all of our decision-making.

Corporate Issues

Stanley Park Lake cordoned off amid bird flu outbreak warning

Stanley Park Lake was cordoned off on Wednesday 2 November 2022, as unfortunately the country faces another outbreak of avian flu. Avian flu is highly pathogenic and the decision to close the lake was taken as a number of birds had died and others were showing signs of the flu. Biosecurity measures are in place and the cordoning off the lake helps manage the situation and helps stop the spread and protect people, as in rare cases it has been transferred to humans. The situation will continue to be monitored in liaison with DEFRA and the Animal and Plant Health Agency.

An award-winning noise app!

I am very pleased to report that the Environmental Protection team were highly commended for their "noise app" at the prestigious John Connell Awards, which took place in London at the Palace of Westminster on Wednesday 19 October 2022. The app allows residents who have made a noise complaint to the council to record snap shots of the problem they are experiencing to monitor the situation. In some cases, use of the app will help to resolve the problem of noise nuisance before it escalates to court minimising costs, distress and the use of resources.

Foxhall Village progress

Work continues to complete the stalled development at Foxhall Village and progress continues to be made. In October this year Great Places submitted a revised planning application to deliver 67 new homes on the remainder of the site, which was approved by the Council.

The Council remains committed to ensuring the remainder of the west site of Foxhall Village is built to provide much needed new homes for the town and that while working under the Exclusivity Agreement, the Council has yet to make a decision on the delivery approach but it is hoped that this will lead to a new agreement between the Council and Great Places to complete the development on the West site.

It is anticipated that further discussions with Great Places Housing Association will be held in the next couple of months to understand challenges around scheme viability and the impact on delivery options.

Meanwhile, the temporary greening on Phase 4 (east site) land is almost complete.

Talbot Gateway Phase 2 - Hotel and Tram Infrastructure

Other than some issues with a Cadent Gas pipe installation which has caused some delay, work is proceeding as planned, with the Hotel Contractor moving on to complete the external works to the new Hotel.

Talbot Gateway Phase 3 - New Office Accommodation

Several administrative milestones have been passed, with both outline and reserved matters planning approval has been granted by the Council for the new office block that will accommodate around 3,000 employees on King Street, and reserved matters for these approvals are now being progressed. The refurbishment of the former Hop Inn is complete and will house the King Street Dental surgery as soon as final CQC checks have been completed. Government signed the agreement for lease on behalf of the Department for Work and Pensions in September 2021. The new building is being designed and delivered by the Council's Development Partner for the Talbot Gateway (Muse Developments Limited).

The construction work is currently being tendered and is progressing as follows:

- The demolition of the existing buildings (5-29) on King Street has been completed;
- The tendering process is in its final stages and is very close to being concluded by mid-November;
- The enabling works will start as soon as the tender and related matters have been resolved prior to the main construction contract;
- The main construction work will commence shortly after the enabling works. This is currently anticipated for January 2023, with the build taking around two years.

The Queen's Green Canopy 'Tree of Trees'

Blackpool Council and Friends of Stanley Park were delighted to be selected to receive a special tree from The Queen's Green Canopy (QGC) 'Tree of Trees' which stood tall as a message of hope, regeneration and optimism to the nation and the world as part of the Platinum Jubilee weekend celebrations.

Blackpool joins over 300 organisations from across the UK who were recently announced by the QGC as recipients of these special trees in The Queen's name, which are gifted in a pot embossed with Her Majesty's cypher. The tree, a Field Maple, will be planted in Stanley Park in the coming months.

The Queen's Green Canopy (QGC) is a UK-wide tree planting initiative created to mark Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee. Designed by Thomas Heatherwick, the QGC "Tree of Trees" sculpture sought to put the importance of trees at the heart of this historic milestone to celebrate Her Majesty, who planted over 1,500 trees all over the world throughout her 70-year reign.

Transforming Services

Huge boost for the Arts – National Portfolio Organisation (NPO) Funding

Just days after this year's Lightpool festival ended, the Arts Council made its announcement of which organisations would be supported with National Portfolio Organisation (NPO) funding. This prestigious designation gives organisations greater certainty of future income, meaning they can plan for the future and invest in high quality art, and they are set to invest a total of £9.4 million in Lancashire over three years from 2023-2026.

Lightpool was awarded an investment of £225k for the first time, which will enable new illuminations art and collaborations, a talent development programme for artists and creatives with artists in residence, the development of new work using the expertise of the Illuminations team and the facilities at Lightworks, and the expansion of the work with local cultural partners such as LeftCoast, Old Electric and the Grand Theatre to provide year-round activity for children, young people and local communities to present work to a wider audience during the Illuminations season and as part of Lightpool Festival.

Elsewhere, the Grundy Art Gallery maintained its NPO funding, to support the development and delivery of an exciting year-round programme of relevant, meaningful and high quality contemporary art exhibitions and events that will take place on an off-site. This programme will see Grundy continuing its founding mission to show the best art of the day to the people of Blackpool and beyond and enable the gallery to enact its vision to be a beacon for contemporary art in the North West. An additional uplift of £33k a year will specifically support the development and delivery of a partnership collaboration with The New Langdale (Blackpool Council's daytime service for people with a Learning Disability), Venture Arts in Manchester and Fylde-Coast based artist Tina Dempsey, providing bespoke professional development to artists with a Learning Disability to enable them to develop their own individual creativity.

There was further good news that the Grand Theatre has also retained its NPO status, with an uplift to its funding meaning they will receive just over £1.4M over 3 years. The uplift is for the expansion of the Grand's initiative which strengthens young people's resilience and creative skills.

A number of smaller independent arts organisations in Blackpool made strong applications to the fund, which unfortunately ACE was unable to support from this particular strand of funding this time round. They are vital to the creative development of the town and in providing access to the arts for our communities. The Council will look at how these organisations can be supported in other ways, as part of the partnership working ACE has committed to with Blackpool being a priority place under their 'Let's Create' 10 year Strategy.

Gym refurbishments – Palatine Leisure Centre and Moor Park Health and Leisure Centre

Gym facilities at Palatine and Moor Park Leisure Centres have recently seen an investment of over £200,000 to replace gym equipment, providing state of the art cardiovascular and resistance equipment as well as new group fitness indoor cycles at both sites. All three of the leisure centres, including Blackpool Sports Centre are the only sites in Lancashire to have EGYM Fitness equipment which provides the user with a unique workout experience that is proven to achieve results, by guiding users through each workout and ensuring they exercise at an optimum range suited to their fitness level.

Working with Partners

Libraries

The library service has held a number of cultural events recently, including Libraries Week in October and our second Get It Loud in Libraries Academy. This programme provides young people in Blackpool the opportunity to attend a week of workshops with music industry professionals, and take part in activities such as beat-boxing, social media/marketing, lyric writing, and creating a music video. Young people who attended then obtained work experience at a live gig on Sunday 30 October 2022, helping to manage ticket sales, social media, and even interviewing the bands (Bodega from New York and Regressive Left from London). One Academy participant stated "I feel really proud of myself this week; I have come out of myself so much!" The gig was the most successful yet with 137 attendees, including local residents and people who had travelled from as far away as Wales.

Anchorsholme Library's 'Generation Friends' project has been re-launched post-COVID. Anchorsholme Academy brings Year 1 children to the library to meet up with some older residents, building relationships across the generations as they do crafts, read together or look through memorabilia.

Upcoming events include the launch of the Lancashire Stories project in conjunction with Lancashire and Blackburn with Darwen library services, which aims to promote local writing talent across Lancashire via an anthology to be made available in all libraries across Lancashire very soon. The launch event for Blackpool will be held on Tuesday 6 December 2022 at Central Library and includes a talk from contributing authors Nathan Parker, Antonia Charlesworth-Stack and Michael Davies.

Elsewhere, Palatine Library is hosting a poetry workshop for adults with renowned poet Peter Samson on Saturday 26 November 2022, whilst Layton Library will be a part of the Layton Christmas Lights switch-on again this year, taking part in the best dressed window display, playing host to the Treasure Trail (with free book give away, supported by the National Literacy Trust) and hosting a pre-school theatre event.

PEOPLE PORTFOLIOS

The 'People' portfolio consists of:

- Councillor Gillian Campbell - Cabinet Member for Inclusion, Youth, Schools and Transience
- Councillor Jo Farrell - Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Community Health and Wellbeing
- Councillor Jim Hobson - Cabinet Member for Children's Social Care

The full details of the portfolio areas can be found on the Council's website at <https://www.blackpool.gov.uk/Your-Council/Your-councillors/Executive-members.aspx>

Strategic Issues

Update on seasonal influenza and COVID-19 vaccination

Blackpool currently has two autumn vaccination programmes covering seasonal influenza and the COVID-19 booster campaign. This is in addition to the so-called "evergreen" offer for unvaccinated or partially-vaccinated residents, which is available through a partnership with Fylde Coast Medical Services (FCMS) and local pharmacies and offered via a vaccine bus and static unit at the Blackpool Model Village. The aim is to offer vaccination to all eligible residents, and to equal or achieve a better uptake than the 2020/21 season. NHS England's ambition is also to increase uptake in 2 and 3 year olds and reduce vaccine inequalities.

Uptake of flu vaccination programme tends to be highest in October, falling off towards Christmas. Most vaccines are given through GP practices, with significant contributions through pharmacies and the school based immunisation services. Together, these services delivered over 18 thousand vaccines given last year, a number which was matched this year by the end of October.

Lowest number of Looked After Children since March 2019

At the end of November 2022, there were 568 children in care in Blackpool, a decrease of 100 children since May 2020 (-15%). This is due to a much lower number of children entering care, combined with more children leaving care permanently through adoption, returning to parents and being cared for within their wider family under special guardianship orders.

The number of children in care in Blackpool is now around 10% higher than the group of other local authorities most similar to the town, which represents significant progress towards getting the best outcome for this group. Plans are in place to continue to safely reduce the number of children in care over the coming year.

Our 5 Promises to Our Children

Following the results of Our Children's Annual Survey which focused on 'The Pledge', and through discussions with Justuz, Our Children in Care Council, it was agreed that our pledge needed a revamp. The young people told us it needed to be brighter, more colourful, to focus more on building relationships and to be more creative in how we support them to see the people who are important to them. To do this, a Co-Production Group was created from Justuz members, the Participation Service and our Communication Team. This group met over several months to look at the new content requested and to create a new brighter, colourful and fresh design.

The children and young people decided to re-name "The Pledge" to "The 5 Promises", telling us that "everyone understands what a promise is and it isn't something that should be broken unlike a pledge". They created new sections such as Your Relationships to focus us on how we support them to see their families and building trusting relationships, and Your Health so that we involve them more in decisions made about their health and create more fun opportunities to keep them fit and healthy.

These now make up The 5 Promises along with Care and Respect, Your Education and Your Future. A special version for younger children in the form of a short story book featuring Benny the Blackpool Bear explains how we will promise to care about them so they feel safe and loved, spend time together, be happy and healthy, help them to learn and have fun and support them to grow up to be whatever they want to be in the future.

All of the Promises have a member champion from the Corporate Parenting Panel, which will put in place arrangements to monitor them alongside delivery plans for each of the 5 themes as part of the Corporate Parenting Strategy. This will also be delivered and monitored by officers within Children's Social Care as well as partners so there will be alignment of governance structures, reporting and monitoring arrangements. The annual survey will also be used to check with "Our Children and Young People" to see how we doing in keep our promises to them.

On Tuesday 18 October 2022, The Mayor of Blackpool hosted the signing of The 5 Promises in the Council Chamber, Blackpool Town Hall. The ceremony was attended by members of Justuz, members of The Corporate Parenting Panel and Children's Social Care staff. Justuz presented the new 5 Promises asking for us all, as their Corporate Parents, to commit to making these promises to all children and young people in our care. The 5 Promises will now be shared across all of Children Social Care, wider council employee's and all partner agencies to promote and support the delivery to Our children and Young People.

Delivery of the National Autism Strategy – learning at our community conference

Whilst our Adult Social Care Autism Team grows from strength to strength, currently supporting 74 autistic people with social care and the development of practical daily living skills, resilience, and confidence, there are at least half as many again who are waiting for our support and still more currently not known to us.

As part of Blackpool’s delivery of the National Autism Strategy, we are also focusing on wider areas of life that impact on autistic people in the town, incorporating education, awareness and information, employment, getting around the town, retail and leisure facilities. On 1 November 2022, we hosted a community conference focusing on employment, employability and simple adjustments that can make working life better for autistic people at the new Winter Gardens Conference Centre. We were privileged to hear first-hand testimony about what helps and hinders autistic people in employment, and inspiring descriptions of the positive difference autistic people in the workplace can and do make if we create a productive work environment that allows everyone’s skills and talents to shine.

A new Financial Inclusion Strategy for difficult times

Executive has recently approved a refreshed Financial Inclusion Strategy following consultation surveys and events across the town with residents, third sector, volunteer groups and other stakeholders. The five year strategy (2022-2027) contains a number of action points across four priority areas:

- Access to Financial Support, Products and Services
- Communication, Collaboration and Coordination
- Digital Skills and Inclusion
- Financial Skills and Capabilities.

The Financial Inclusion Strategy will be key to marshalling resources which support residents to become more financially resilient, particularly relevant given the current cost of living crisis. Following approval, subgroups will be established to start collaborative working between organisations across the town to assist us in delivering the action plan shortly, whilst a follow-up to our September Cost of Living event will be held on 7 December 2022 to facilitate joint working on the issues hitting people in Blackpool the hardest.

Better Start Conference Tackling Poverty opened by Dame Andrea Leadsom

In October 2022, Blackpool Better Start held their 8th Annual conference: “Tackling Poverty, Changing Childhoods”. The event, chaired by the Chief Executive of the NSPCC Peter Wanless, brought together experts within the field of Early Child Development to discuss how at a local and national level workforces can respond to the pressures on families living in poverty and mitigate the impact it is having on early child development.

A total of 821 delegates registered to attend the virtual conference from across the UK, representing 50 local authorities, 16 NHS trusts and 22 academic establishments. The key note presentation from Carey Oppenheim, the former chief executive of the Early Intervention Foundation, set the theme for the day and shared findings from the Nuffield Foundations reports into The Changing Face of Early Childhood in Britain. Presentations were also delivered from The Children’s Commissioner for England, Dame Rachel De Souza and Dame Andrea Leadsom who shared their findings from the Family Review and Start For Life initiative respectively.

The conference showcased a film produced by Blackpool parents which highlighted the impact of poverty on families and provided recommendations to the workforce on how to support and talk about poverty with families. This was supported with a session from the Frameworks UK institute about how to talk about poverty in a way to reduce the stigma attached to it.

Corporate Issues

Occupational Health vaccination clinics

Blackpool Council’s in-house Occupation Health campaign commenced on 30th September, with daily vaccination clinics held until 21 October 2022 across 22 locations, making it easier for front-facing staff to benefit. As at the end of October, 996 had been vaccinated, including 306 from schools and 134 from other organisations, putting us well on track to surpass last year's total of 1015.

Investing in knowledge: £5 million for our Health Determinants Research Collaboration

Blackpool Council has been awarded £5 million over 5 years from the National Institute for Health Research to establish a Health Determinants Research Collaboration (HDRC) in Blackpool. The successful bid was co-developed with Lancaster University, Blackpool Teaching Hospitals and Empowerment Charity. Ten local authorities have been selected to establish HDRCs in 2022, with Blackpool being the only successful local authority in the North West.

The aim of the HDRC is for Blackpool Council, in collaboration with our local communities and partner organisations, to become a sustainably “research active” local authority. This means that we will use information on “what works” to inform what we do, and undertake co-produced research in line with local and organisational priorities which address the wider determinants of poor health that conspire to produce stark health inequalities in Blackpool. In the initial years of our HDRC, we will use the priorities of the Place-Based Partnership to shape our work – Housing; The first 1001 days of life; Education, employment and skills; and Mental Health, with Healthy Lifestyles being a golden thread throughout.

Transforming Services

The Falls Pick Up service – reducing pressures on the Ambulance Service

There has been a considerable amount of media focus about how the NHS will respond to the anticipated difficult winter period. One of the key areas of focus nationally is around falls, whether this be people in their own homes or in care homes. It is typical for most falls that an ambulance is called for assistance. In Blackpool, the Council's Vitaline Service which delivers the technology enabled care provision for Blackpool, has been successfully delivering a Falls Pick Up service to Vitaline clients for over 10 years.

The service has recently been working with North West Ambulance Service (NWAS) so that calls for uninjured fallers are automatically shared with Vitaline for a "Falls Pick Up" visit, which is typically quicker than an ambulance. NWAS has trained Vitaline staff to undertake an assessment for injury and following a successful fall pick up, staff can call off the request for the ambulance. This ultimately prevents an ambulance visit and often a conveyance to hospital.

Building on this success, the Council's Vitaline Service has now expanded the Falls Pick Up service for care homes, where the care home also telephones Vitaline following the call to 999 with the service being delivered by whichever service arrives on site first. In one instance this reduced a potential six hour wait time for an ambulance to just 30 minutes and within 45 minutes from the time of the call to Vitaline, the resident was up off the floor and back in their bed, settled, happy and safe. The ambulance crew were then able to prioritise resources to other emergencies.

More generally, the Vitaline service has been enhanced further by working with Blackpool Teaching Hospitals Community Services and the Rapid Response Team. This team is a multi-disciplinary team of clinical specialists based in the community who can provide clinical support to patients in their own homes and in care homes, providing a live triage intervention between 8am-8pm 7 days a week, where our clinical colleagues can make risk based decisions about how best to care for the person and whether a hospital admission or GP is required. The enhanced service has been in place since June 2022 and so far over 40 admissions to hospital have been avoided as a result of Vitaline and Rapid Response working in partnership, with this model now being developed in Morecambe and across other areas of Lancashire and South Cumbria.

Social Care Technology

The Council's Vitaline Service embarked on their 'digital switch' programme pre-COVID in anticipation of the current analogue telephone lines being made obsolete by 2025. Following considerable capital investment, Vitaline are installing new digital Smart Hubs in people's homes in readiness for August 2023, when the switchover will begin.

This 'digital switch' also creates an opportunity to better deliver technology enabled care remotely, including monitoring in people's own homes and additional health and wellbeing support via digital applications. The Vitaline Service has been working with the Health and Social Care Career Academy and Blackpool and Fylde College to develop a 'technology space' inside the Health and Social Care Career Academy at the Council's Bickerstaffe offices, featuring drop-in sessions with Telecare/Telehealth lead for Social Workers and Care Providers so they can be shown the equipment available and what it can do for people.

With increasing demand for social care, using technology can enhance or replace some elements of care to help us better target resources where they are needed most. The aspiration is to care for people with a blend of physical and digital care into the future, taking advantage of new technologies to better care and support our most vulnerable residents.

Working with Partners

Assessment and Rehabilitation Centre (ARC)

The ARC, which has 33 health and social care beds to support prevention of admission to hospital and timely hospital discharges, has experienced significant change during the last few years in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and the increasing acuity of people's needs. The Council, in partnership with Blackpool Teaching Hospitals, has delivered an integrated health and social care model of care at ARC for many years now. This was initially with a focus of rehabilitation and residential re-ablement. However, over recent years there has been a shift towards more complex care and people requiring a period of time to recuperate following a discharge from hospital, filling a gap left by the closure of some community hospitals. As a result, the ARC has increased its general staffing cohort to ensure adequate staffing is available to meet higher care needs.

A Clinical Lead Nurse role to support the nurses delivering the clinical care of the people accessing ARC has strengthened our care delivery. Furthermore, working with colleagues at the Adelaide Street GP Practice and our Integrated Care Board (CCG) Commissioners, we successfully developed a daily visiting GP Service, enabling the ARC team to better care for people with very complex medical conditions on site at ARC without needing to be referred or conveyed to hospital.

Hospital and Health Based Teams

The Transfer of Care Hub, a multi-disciplinary team of health and social care staff that oversee hospital discharges seven days a week for those people requiring a service on discharge is now well established and still developing. Further Adult Social Care staff recruitment has now ensured that a full complement of staff is in place to support the service.

This team is proving effective in managing the journey from the acute and peripheral hospitals and support on average 100 people a week to determine the best place of discharge and then source and arrange this. Ward staff still discharge more physically able patients directly; but due to concerns about how some of these people managed post discharge, we have incorporated a support work role into this team to follow up on people sent home via this route. This has picked up and supported a number of people who were failing to manage and avoided potential readmissions to hospital.

Former hospital social work staff are now based within the community and provide a discharge support service, assessing everyone discharged within the first three days to check the discharge plan is robust and was correct, arrange alternatives if not appropriate and also assess and plan with people for how best to meet their medium to longer term on going care needs.

Utilising Resilience and Surge funding we are providing additional hours on a 6 month temporary basis into our Raid Response team to ascertain the social care demand if the service moves ahead with the national requirement for a seven day 8:00am – 8:00pm service. Funding does not currently allow us to do this full time or permanently, but we hope to gather evidence over the 6 months of staffing and funding requirements going forward.

We continue to have social care staff operating out of the six main Primary Care teams and are also involved in some of the wider system discussions about the introduction of integration following the Fuller Report recommendations.

For all of our teams in Social Work and in Care Services, the changes in acuity and complexity of the people we support, the earlier journey out of the acute NHS system into the community, and the national workforce shortages are adding complexity, volume and time to the work our teams do. We remain creative and collaborative in responding to the demands for our services; however, the impacts are significant. We have seen a doubling in the last year of 'minor changes' work, for example. This is indicative of people coming into our care whilst still not recovered or stabilised, and adds significant overhead in terms of multiple visits and assessments, changes to care plans, and administration of our systems.

We are also delivering thousands more hours of domiciliary care services, and providers are struggling to keep up with the additional demand, which means we have to find temporary solutions in the interim. As we head into winter, these pressures are building further in all areas, but we remain in daily planning, oversight and delivery contact with our NHS partners at all levels of the system.

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Report to:	COUNCIL
Relevant Officer:	Neil Jack, Chief Executive / Returning Officer
Date of Decision/ Meeting:	Wednesday 30 November 2022

REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICTS AND POLLING PLACES

1.0 Purpose of the report:

1.1 To consider the review of polling districts and polling places under the new ward boundaries that will come into force at the local elections in May 2023. The recommendations from the Local Government Boundary Commission for England on the new wards are currently subject to parliamentary approval which is anticipated to be early 2023.

2.0 Recommendation(s):

2.1 To approve the polling districts and polling places as set out in the appendices of this report subject to parliamentary approval of the warding arrangements.

2.2 To delegate authority to the Returning Officer to make further changes to polling places/polling stations that may be necessary before the elections on 4 May 2023.

3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

3.1 In preparation for the new ward boundaries coming into effect it has been necessary to undertake an interim review of the polling districts and polling places.

3.2 Is the recommendation contrary to a plan or strategy adopted or approved by the Council? No

3.3 Is the recommendation in accordance with the Council's approved budget? Yes

4.0 Other alternative options to be considered:

4.1 Where appropriate, schools have been replaced with an alternative polling place although this has not been possible in every case. It should be noted that for the purpose of taking the poll in England and Wales, the Returning Officer is entitled to use, free of charge, schools maintained or assisted by a local authority as well as those schools that receive grants made out of moneys provided by Parliament. This includes academies and free schools.

4.2 The Electoral Services Manager works with schools to find solutions to enable them to remain open while being used as polling stations. In addition, where an existing polling place is no longer available an alternative has been identified.

5.0 Council priority:

5.1 The relevant Council priority is “Communities: Creating stronger communities and increasing resilience”

6.0 Background information

6.1 The Local Government Boundary Commission for England has undertaken a review of the Council’s electoral arrangements and made recommendations for new warding patterns, to be used for the May 2023 Local Elections onwards. As a result of the recommendations, a review of polling districts and polling places must be undertaken to ensure appropriate arrangements are in place for May 2023 relating to polling district boundaries within wards and the polling stations that will serve these new polling districts. A link to the proposed new ward boundaries can be found here: [Blackpool | LGBCE Site](#)

6.2 The responsibility for designating polling districts is for the council to determine. In drawing up polling district boundaries the Council must ensure that all electors in the area have such reasonable facilities for voting as are practicable in the circumstances.

6.3 The Council must also designate a polling place for every polling district. This is usually within the boundary of the polling district unless there are special circumstances e.g. lack of suitable buildings.

6.4 A polling district is a geographically area created by a sub-area of an electoral area (such as a ward or constituency) that is divided into for the purposes of delivering an election. A polling place is the building or area in which polling stations will be located. A polling place within a polling district must be designated so that polling stations are within easy reach of all electors from across the polling district. The polling station is the actual room or area where the voting takes place.

6.5 Public notice of the review was given on 20 September 2022 and information about the review was published on the Council’s website. All members and Members of Parliament (MPs) were informed of the review and invited to submit comments and representations. The Electoral Services Team also held an informal drop-in session prior to the last Council meeting in September. The Chief Executive in his role as Acting Returning Officer at Wyre Borough Council was also invited to submit comments in respect of polling stations within the Blackpool North and Cleveleys constituency as the polling places are also used at Parliamentary elections. The second stage consultation

closed on the 28 October 2022.

6.6 In reviewing the polling districts and polling places the Council is required to actively seek representation from such persons as it thinks to have particular expertise in relation to access to premises or facilities for persons who have different forms of disability. Such persons, must be given the opportunity to make representations and to comment on proposals by the Returning Officer. Details of the review were distributed to disability agencies across Blackpool although there have been no representations or amendments.

6.7 The proposed changes to polling districts and polling places are outlined within the attached appendices.

6.8 It was initially proposed that the revised register would be published on 1 December 2022. Unfortunately due to a delay in Parliamentary business this is now not possible. It is anticipated that the revised register with new ward boundaries will now be published early 2023.

6.9 Does the information submitted include any exempt information? No

7.0 List of Appendices:

7.1 Appendix 5(a) – Proposed changes
Appendix 5(b) – Maps (identifying new ward boundaries, new polling districts and location of polling places)

8.0 Financial considerations:

8.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from the review although indirect costs such as the cost of hiring the polling places may arise.

9.0 Legal considerations:

9.1 Schedule A1 of the Representation of the People Act 1983 prescribes the statutory steps for an authority conducting a polling district review.

10.0 Risk management considerations:

10.1 Polling Station Inspectors conduct on the job assessments of the polling places as part of their duties. Risk assessments are carried out prior to elections to ensure up to date suitability of venue and where appropriate adaptations can be made.

11.0 Equalities considerations:

11.1 All polling stations are assessed in terms of accessibility in line with Electoral

Commission guidance.

12.0 Sustainability, climate change and environmental considerations:

12.1 None

13.0 Internal/external consultation undertaken:

13.1 Consultation on the proposed list of polling places and polling districts (as set out in the appendices) has been undertaken with ward councillors, Members of Parliament, members of the public and persons who have particular expertise in relation to access to premises and facilities for persons who have different forms of disability.

14.0 Background papers:

- The Blackpool (Electoral Changes) Order 2022
- Local Government Boundary Commission for England Report: New electoral arrangements for Blackpool Council Final Recommendations - July 2022

Interim Polling Districts and Polling Places Review 2022

Appendix 5(a)

Ward	Polling District	Electorate	Proposed Polling Places Review 2022	Returning Officer Comments
Anchorsholme	A1	512	Anchorsholme Bowling & Social Club, Anchorsholme Park, Anchorsholme Lane West, FY5 1LY	No change to polling place or polling district boundary.
	A2	1548	All Saints Church, 36 Valeway Avenue, FY5 3RN	No change to polling place or polling district boundary.
	A3	1351	Sevenoaks Community Centre, Hobart Place, FY5 3DQ	No change to polling place or polling district boundary.
	A4	1611	Cleveleys Baptist Church, St George's Avenue, FY5 3JN	No change to polling place or polling district boundary.
Norbreck	B1	700	Whiteholme Youth and Community Centre, All Saints Road, FY5 3AL	No change to polling place or polling district boundary.
	B2	4268	Norbreck Primary Academy (Main Entrance), Norbreck Road, FY5 1PD	No change to polling place or polling district boundary.
Bispham	C1	2897	Blackpool Sea Cadets, 596 Devonshire Road, FY2 0JL	No change to polling place. Change to polling district boundary.
	C2	1454	Bispham United Reformed Church, Warbreck Drive / Cavendish Road, FY2 9JR	No change to polling place but change of room from hall to church. Change to polling district boundary.
Warbreck	D1	1261	St Stephen`s Church Hall, St Stephen's Avenue, FY2 9RB	No change to polling place or polling district boundary.
	D2	1797	Claremont Park Community Centre (the Old Library), Claremont Road, FY1 2QJ	No change to polling place. Change to polling district boundary.
	D3	1996	St Stephen`s Church Hall, St Stephen's Avenue, FY2 9RB	No change to polling place or polling district boundary.
Claremont	E1	864	Spencer Court Community Centre, Spencer Court, FY1 3TR	No change to polling place. Change to polling district boundary.

Ward	Polling District	Electorate	Proposed Polling Places Review 2022	Returning Officer Comments
	E2	2373	Westminster Primary Academy, Westminster Road, FY1 2QE	No change to polling place. Change to polling district boundary.
	E3	1576	Claremont First Step Community Centre, Methodist Church Buildings, Dickson Road, FY1 2AP	No change to polling place or polling district boundary.
Talbot	F1	2066	The Salvation Army, Raikes Parade, FY1 4EL	No change to polling place or polling district boundary.
	F2	1083	Beacon Church, 42 Reads Avenue, FY1 4DE	No change to polling place or polling district boundary.
	F3	1481	Forest Gate Baptist Church, Forest Gate, FY3 9AW	No change to polling place or polling district boundary.
Ingthorpe	G1	1589	Kincraig Community Centre, Kincraig Place, FY2 0NB	No change to polling place or polling district boundary.
	G2	1205	Bispham Community Centre, Bispham Road, FY2 0HH	No change to polling place or polling district boundary.
	G3	2290	St Bernadette's Church Hall, 26 All Hallows Road, FY2 0AS	No change to polling place or polling district boundary.
Greenlands	H1	3467	Kings Church, Bispham Road, FY2 0LB (Formerly known as Springfield Methodist Church)	No change to polling place or polling district boundary.
	H2	1822	Unity Academy, Warbreck Hill Road, FY2 0TS	No change to polling place. Change to polling district boundary.
Park	J1	951	Lee House (Layton Depot), Plymouth Road, FY3 7HW	No change to polling place or polling district boundary.
	J2	2532	@thegrange, Bathurst Avenue/ Dinmore Avenue, FY3 7RW	No change to polling place. Change to polling district boundary.
	J3	1398	The Boathouse Youth Club, (Formerly Horsebridge Community Centre), 170 Horsebridge Road, FY3 7EB	No change to polling place or polling district boundary.
Layton	K1	2995	St Mark's Church, Westcliffe Drive, FY3 7HG	No change to polling place or polling district boundary.

Ward	Polling District	Electorate	Proposed Polling Places Review 2022	Returning Officer Comments
	K2	2034	Sports Pavilion, Kingscote Park, Kingscote Drive, FY3 7EN	No change to polling place. Change to polling district boundary.
Brunswick	L1	2670	St Thomas` Parish Centre, 135 Caunce Street, FY1 3NJ	No change to polling place. Change to polling district boundary.
	L2	1568	St Kentigern's Parish Committee Room, 25A Newton Drive, FY3 8BT	No change to polling place or polling district boundary.
	L3	617	St Thomas` Parish Centre, 135 Caunce Street, FY1 3NJ	No change to polling place. Change to polling district boundary.
Bloomfield	M1	898	Polling place to be confirmed.	No change to polling district boundary. We continue to explore the options in the area for a polling place for polling district M1. We will go back out for consultation in the coming months regarding the new venue.
	M2	1877	Ibbison Court Community Centre, Ibbison Court/Central Drive, FY1 4AU	No change to polling place or polling district boundary.
	M3	1692	St Peter's Church Hall, Lytham Road, FY1 6DJ	No change to polling place or polling district boundary.
Waterloo	N1	3488	The Solaris Centre, New South Promenade, FY4 1RW	Change of polling place and change of polling district boundary. Polling station changed from Thames Primary Academy to Solaris. The Solaris has plenty of available space within the building to accommodate the electors and it has good transport links and adequate parking.
	N2	1207	Holy Trinity Memorial Hall, Dean Street, FY4 1BP	No change of polling place or polling district boundary.
	N3	375	The Solaris Centre, New South Promenade, FY4 1RW	No change of polling place or polling district boundary.
Squires Gate	O1	3906	South Shore Methodist Church, Scarsdale Avenue/Mayfield Avenue, FY4 2NP	No change of polling place. Change of polling district boundary.
	O2	1106	Sharples Hall, Next To Princess Alexandra Home For The Blind, Bosworth Place, FY4 1SH	No change of polling place or polling district boundary.

Ward	Polling District	Electorate	Proposed Polling Places Review 2022	Returning Officer Comments
Tyldesley	P1	1871	St John Vianney Parish Centre, 26 Glastonbury Avenue, FY1 6RD	No change to polling place. Change to polling district boundary.
	P2	1376	Blackpool and The Fylde College, University Centre, Park Road, FY1 4ES	No change to polling place or polling district boundary.
	P3	1716	Revoe Library, Revoe Street, Blackpool FY1 5HN	Change of polling place. No change to polling district boundary. In an attempt to move away from schools we have changed the polling place from Revoe Learning Academy to the nearby Revoe Library.
Victoria	Q1	627	Polling place to be confirmed	No change to polling district. We continue to explore the options in polling district Q1 for a polling place. We will go back out for consultation in the coming months regarding the new venue.
	Q2	3923	Palatine Sports Centre, 207 St Annes Road, Blackpool FY4 2AP	No change of polling place. Change of polling district boundary.
Hawes Side	R1	2046	Marion Institute, Oxford Square, FY4 4DR	No change of polling place. Change of polling district boundary.
	R2	3002	St Christopher's Church Hall, Hawes Side Lane, FY4 5AH	No change of polling place. Change of polling district boundary.
	R3 - Delete Polling District		Not applicable	Delete polling district and amalgamate with polling district R1. Due to the small electorate and close proximity to the polling station in R1 this polling district has been amalgamated.
Highfield	S1	1103	Molyneux Community Centre, Molyneux Drive FY4 3JJ	Change of polling place and change of polling district boundary.
	S2	3133	Lostock Gardens Community Centre, Lostock Gardens, FY4 3PP	Change of polling place and change of polling district boundary.

Ward	Polling District	Electorate	Proposed Polling Places Review 2022	Returning Officer Comments
	S3 - New Polling District	1170	Old Library Community Centre, Highfield Road, FY4 2JF	New polling district. Electors in new polling district already vote at proposed polling place.
Marton	T1	3128	Marton United Reformed Church, Preston Old Road, FY3 9UR	No change to polling place or polling district boundary.
	T2	1896	St Paul's Church, Honister Avenue/Whitegate Drive, FY3 9PF	No change to polling place. Change to polling district boundary.
Clifton	U1	2688	Tarnside Community Centre, Tarnside (off Langdale Road), FY4 4RD	No change to polling place or polling district boundary.
	U2	2180	Baines Endowed Children's Centre, Penrose Avenue, FY4 4DJ	No change to polling place. Change to polling district boundary.
Stanley	V1	676	Aysgarth Community Centre, Aysgarth Court (off Wherside, Highfield Road), FY4 5LX	No change to polling place. Change to polling district boundary.
	V2	1495	South Shore Lawn Tennis Club, Midgeland Road, FY4 5HZ	Change of polling place. Change to polling district boundary. Due to change in ward boundary electors will join electors from V3 at the Tennis Club.
	V3	872	South Shore Lawn Tennis Club, Midgeland Road, FY4 5HZ	No change to polling place or polling district boundary.
	V4	1199	Aysgarth Community Centre, Aysgarth Court (off Wherside, Highfield Road), FY4 5LX	No change to polling place. Change to polling district boundary.

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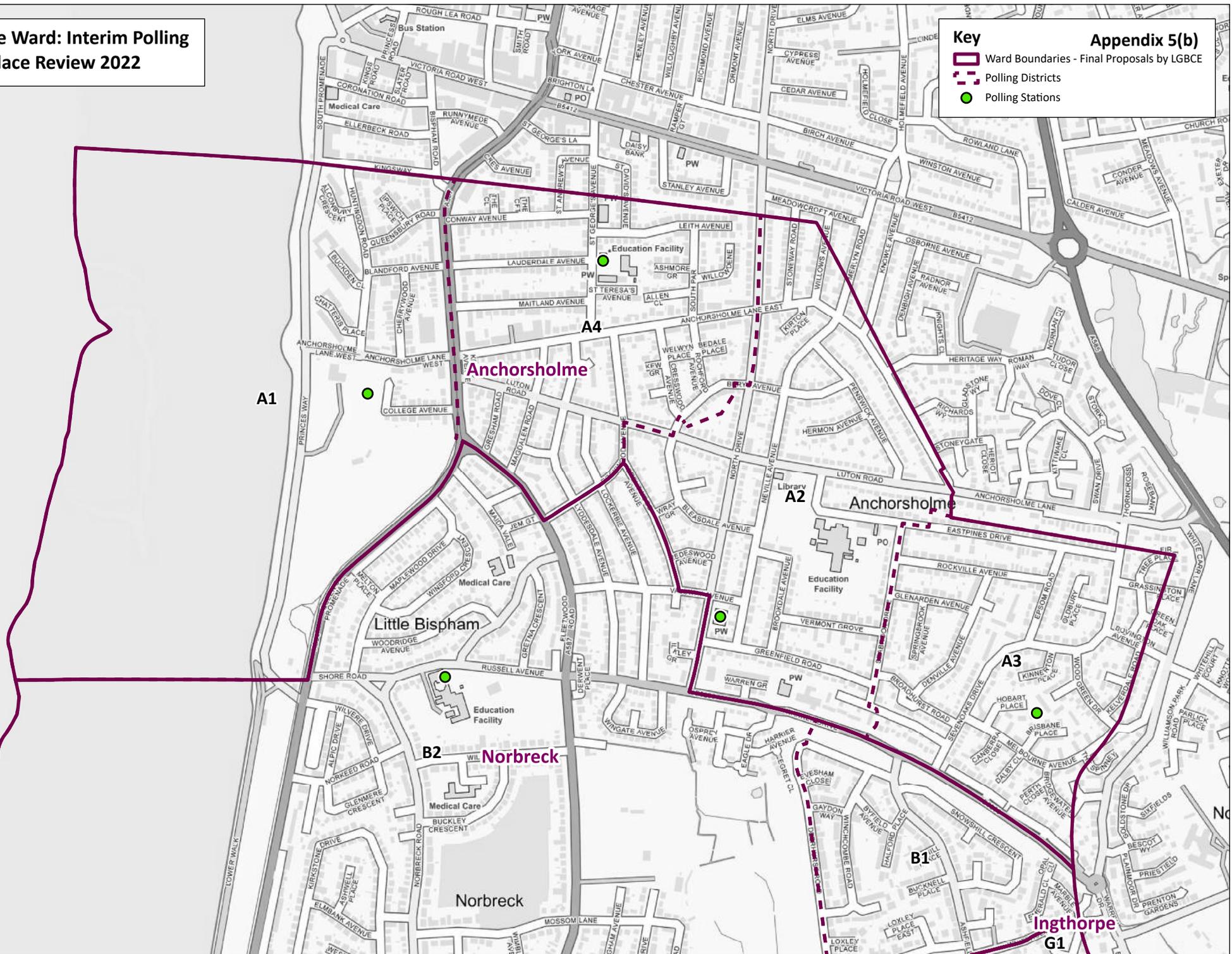
Anchorsholme Ward: Interim Polling District and Place Review 2022

Key

- Ward Boundaries - Final Proposals by LGBC
- Polling Districts
- Polling Stations

Appendix 5(b)

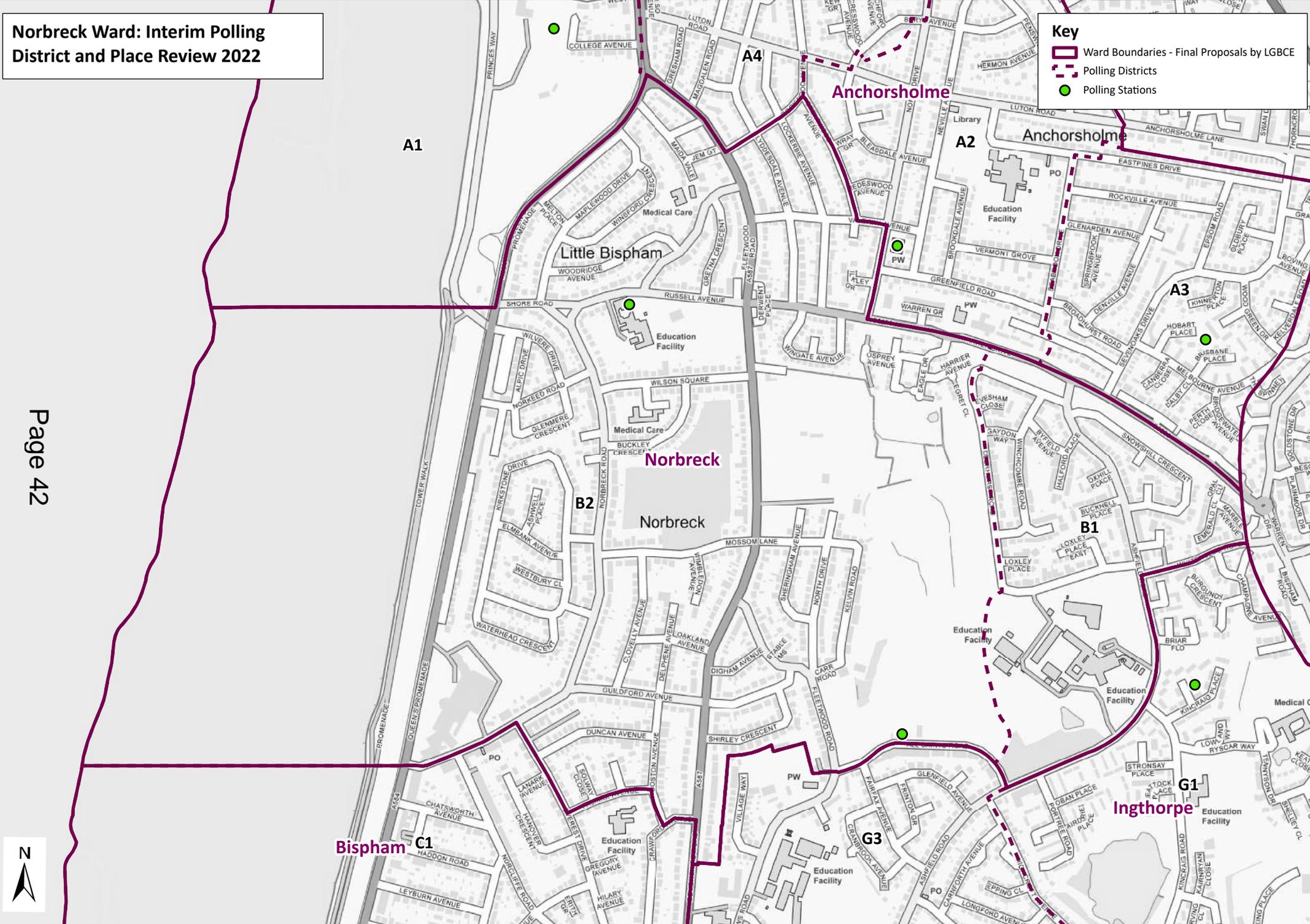
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Norbreck Ward: Interim Polling District and Place Review 2022

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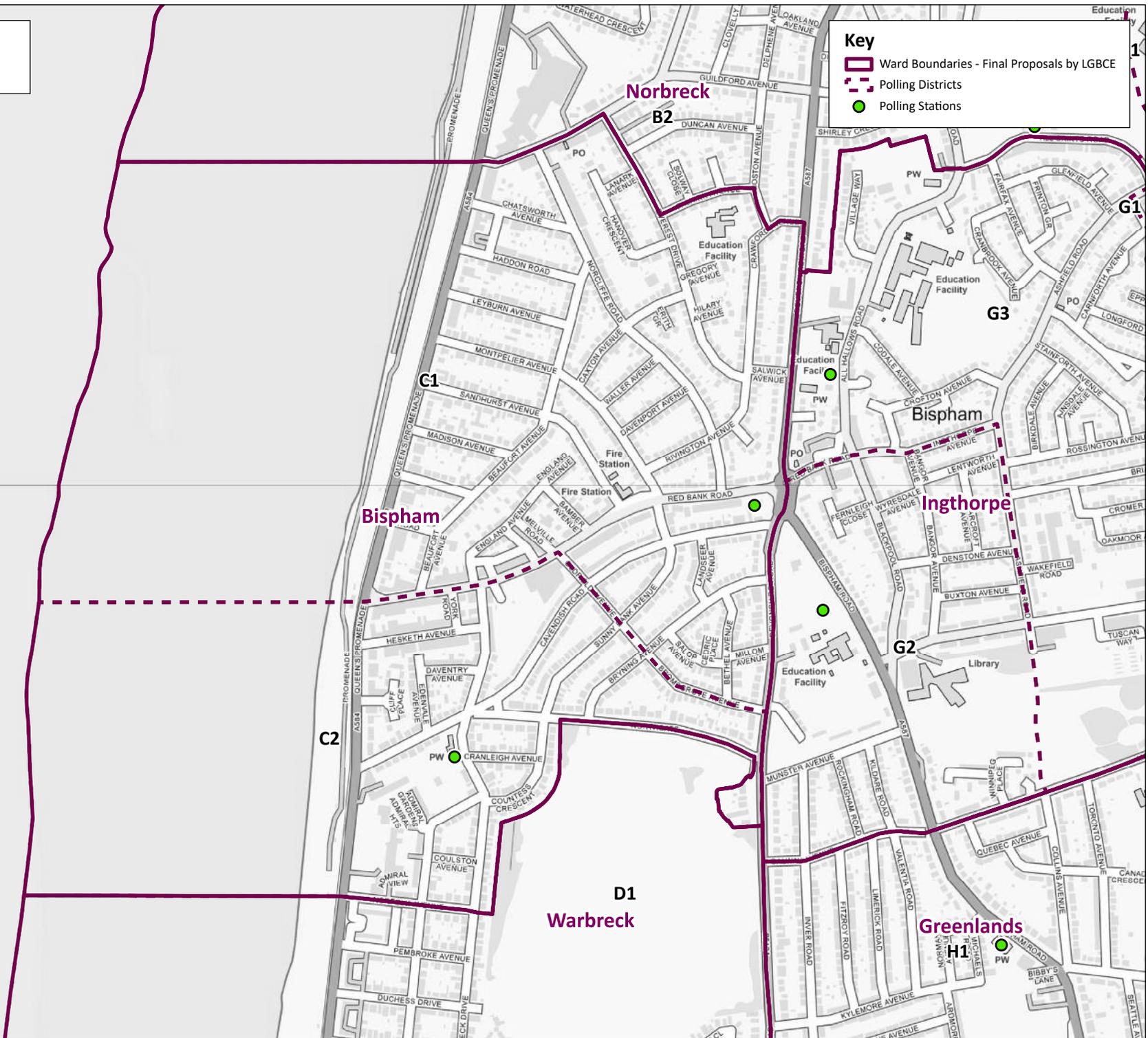
- Ward Boundaries - Final Proposals by LGBCE
- Polling Districts
- Polling Stations



Bispham Ward: Interim Polling District and Place Review 2022

Key

- Ward Boundaries - Final Proposals by LGBCE
- Polling Districts
- Polling Stations



Warbreck Ward: Interim Polling District and Place Review 2022

Key

-  Ward Boundaries - Final Proposals by LGBCE
-  Polling Districts
-  Polling Stations

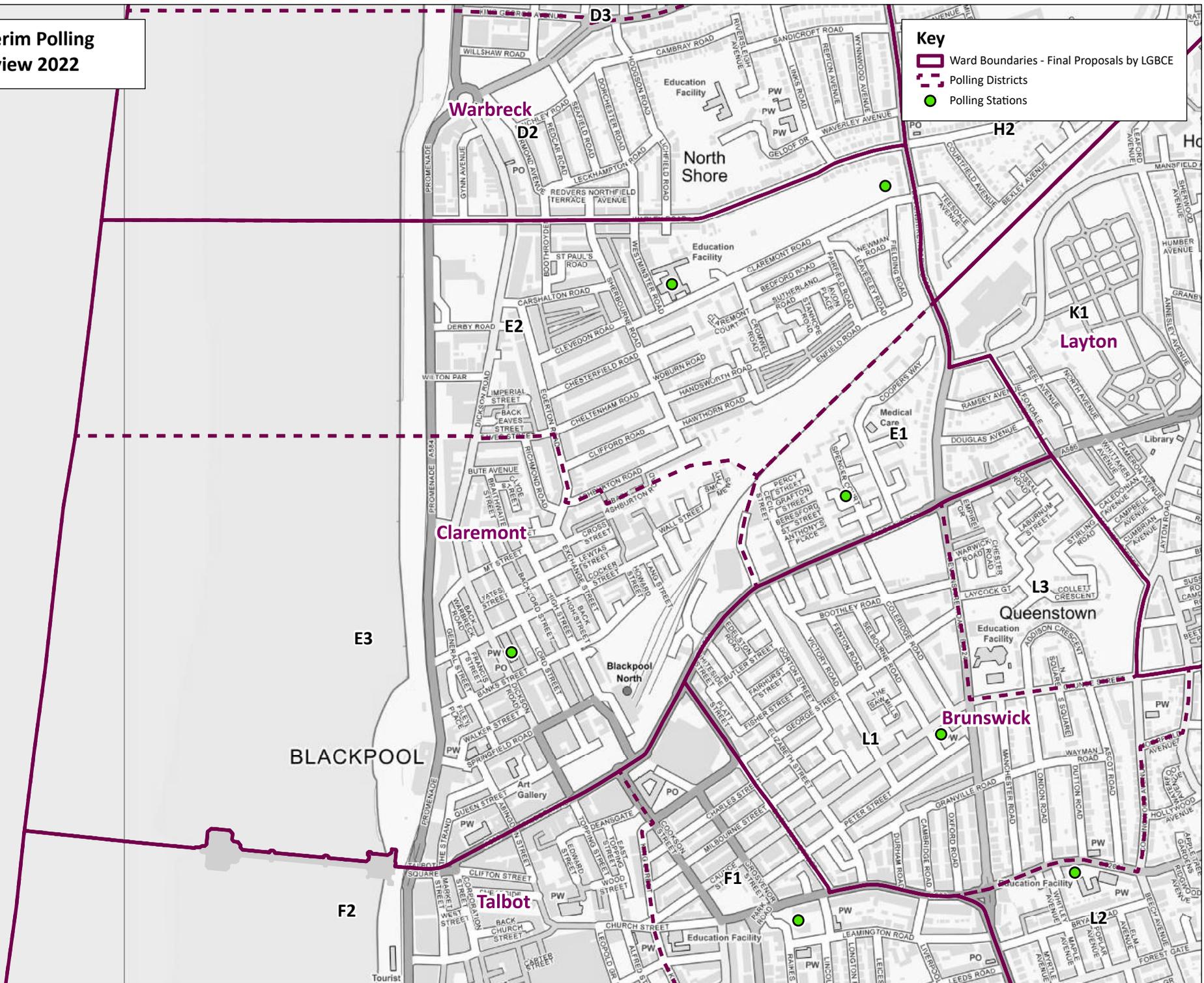


Claremont Ward: Interim Polling District and Place Review 2022

Key

- Ward Boundaries - Final Proposals by LGBCE
- Polling Districts
- Polling Stations

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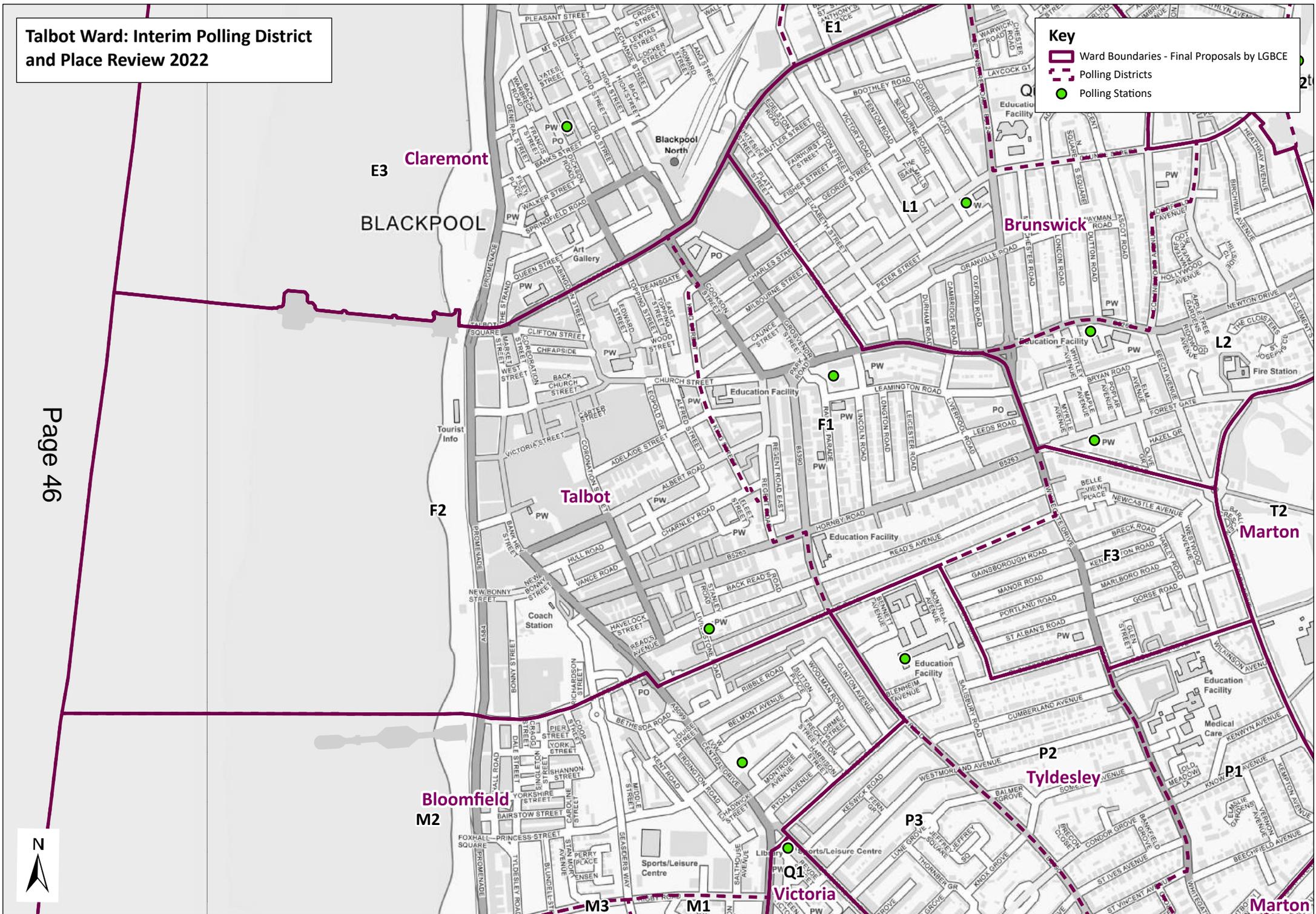


Talbot Ward: Interim Polling District and Place Review 2022

Key

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- Polling Districts
- Polling Stations

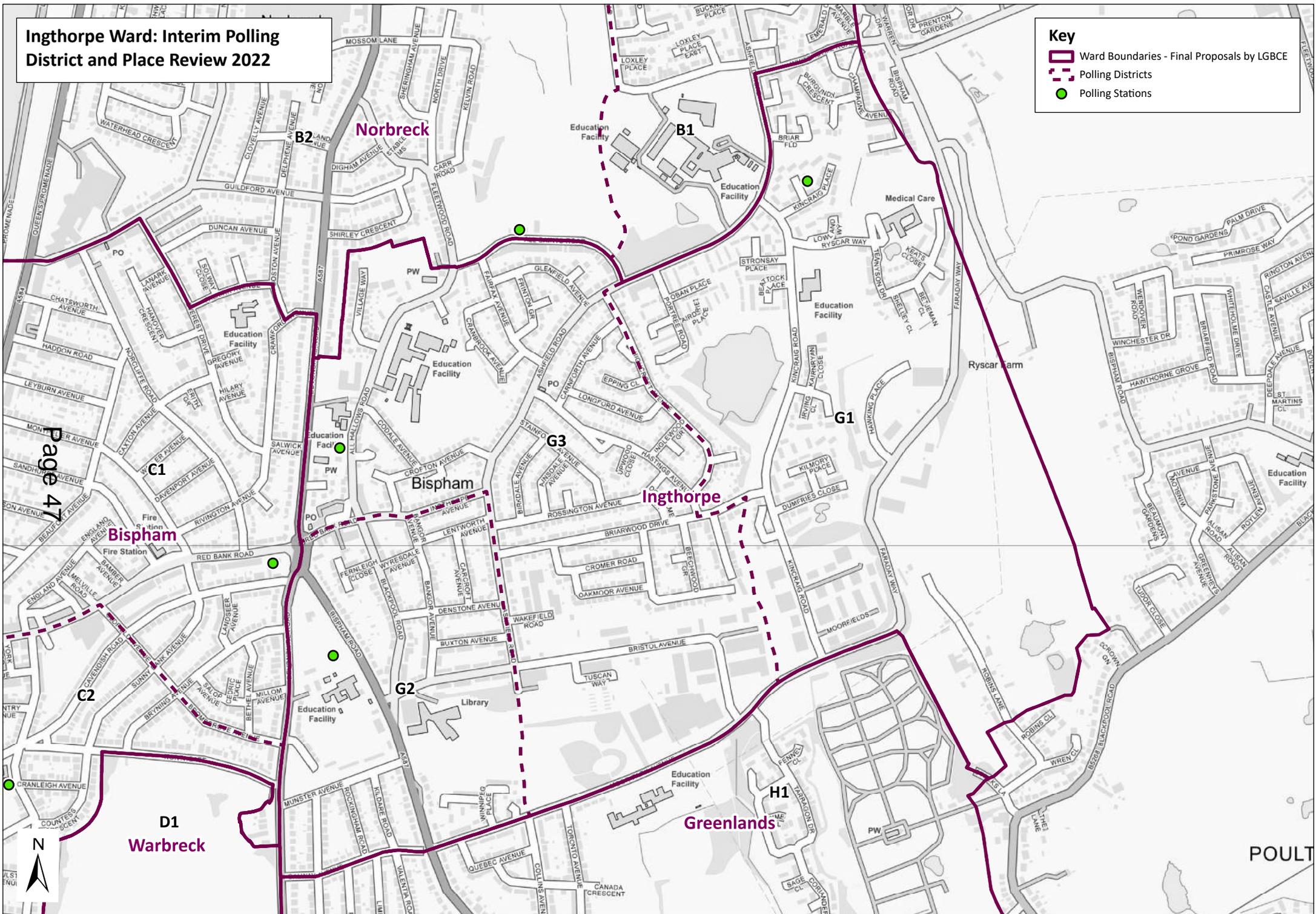
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Ingthorpe Ward: Interim Polling District and Place Review 2022

Key

-  Ward Boundaries - Final Proposals by LGBCE
-  Polling Districts
-  Polling Stations

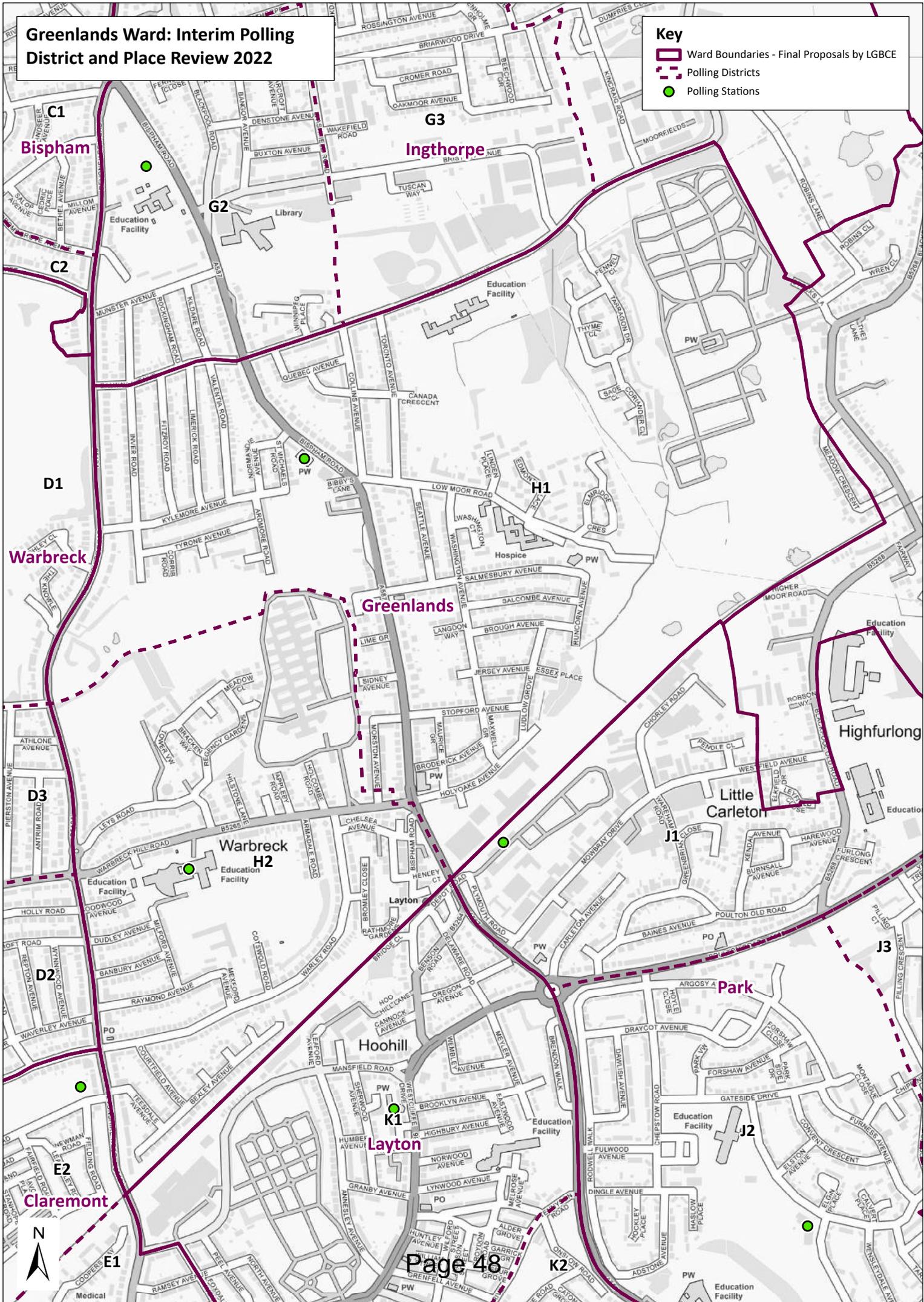


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Greenlands Ward: Interim Polling District and Place Review 2022

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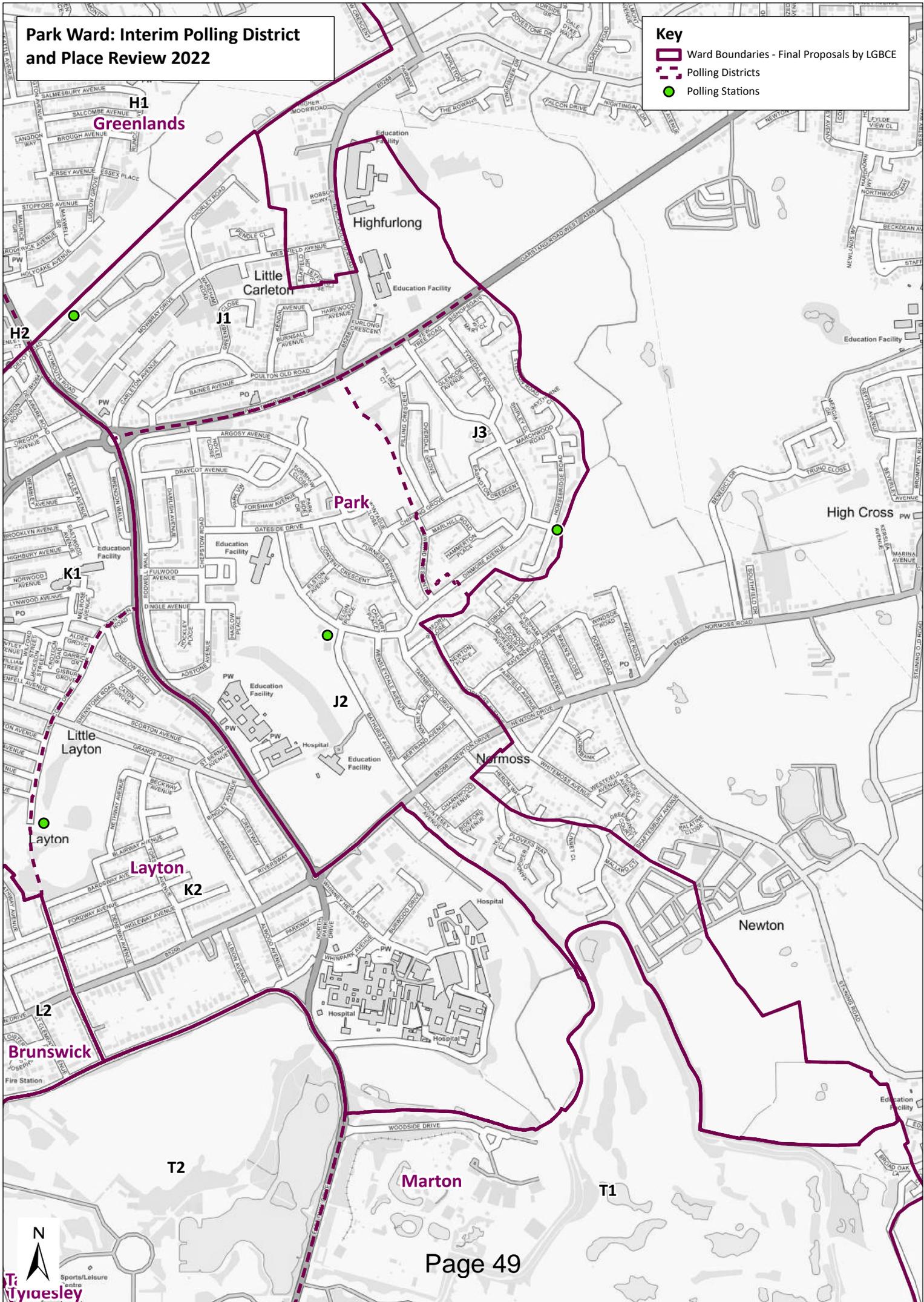
-  Ward Boundaries - Final Proposals by LGBCE
-  Polling Districts
-  Polling Stations



Park Ward: Interim Polling District and Place Review 2022

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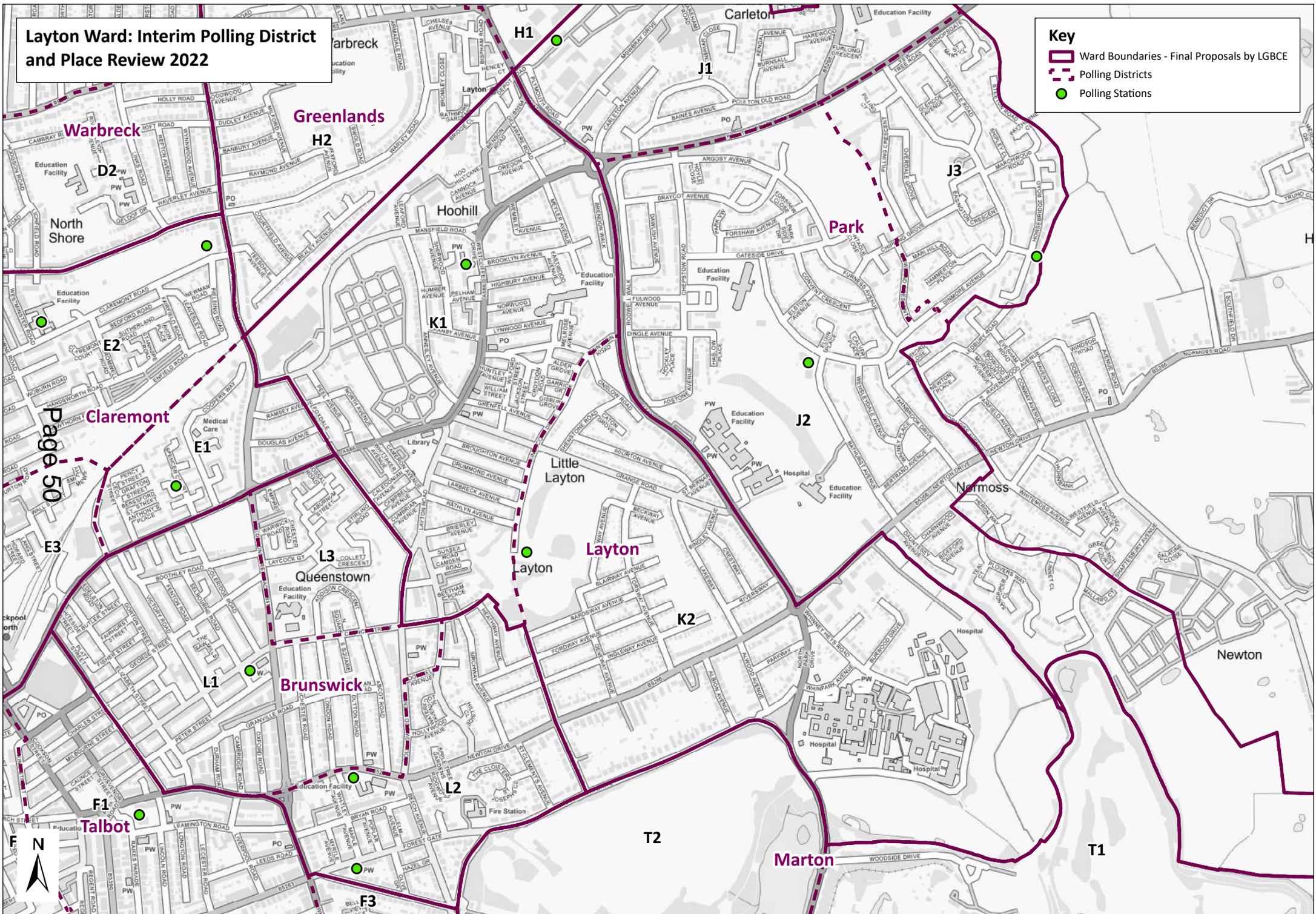
-  Ward Boundaries - Final Proposals by LGBCE
-  Polling Districts
-  Polling Stations



Layton Ward: Interim Polling District and Place Review 2022

Key

- Ward Boundaries - Final Proposals by LGBCE
- Polling Districts
- Polling Stations

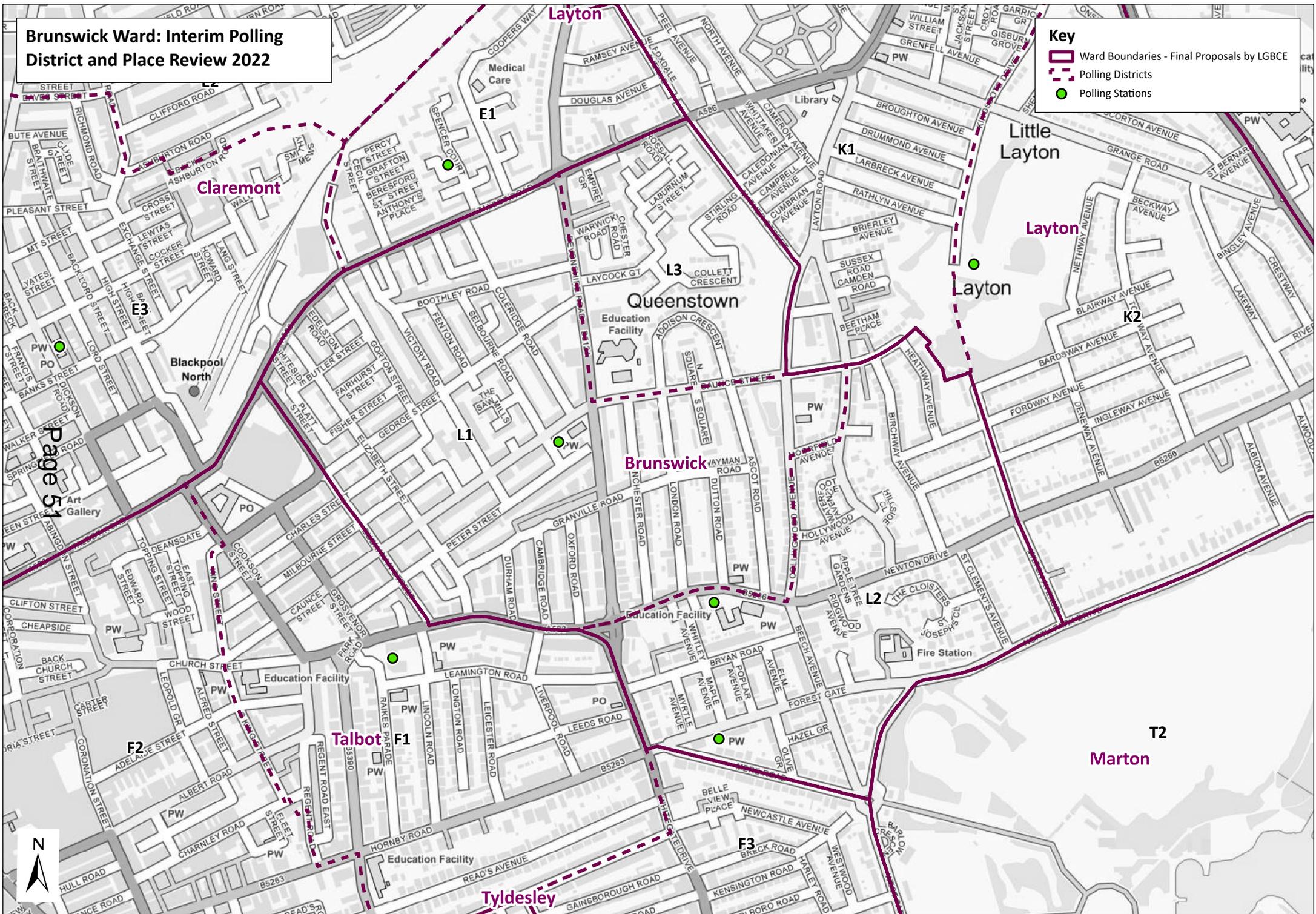


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Brunswick Ward: Interim Polling District and Place Review 2022

Key

- Ward Boundaries - Final Proposals by LGBCE
- Polling Districts
- Polling Stations

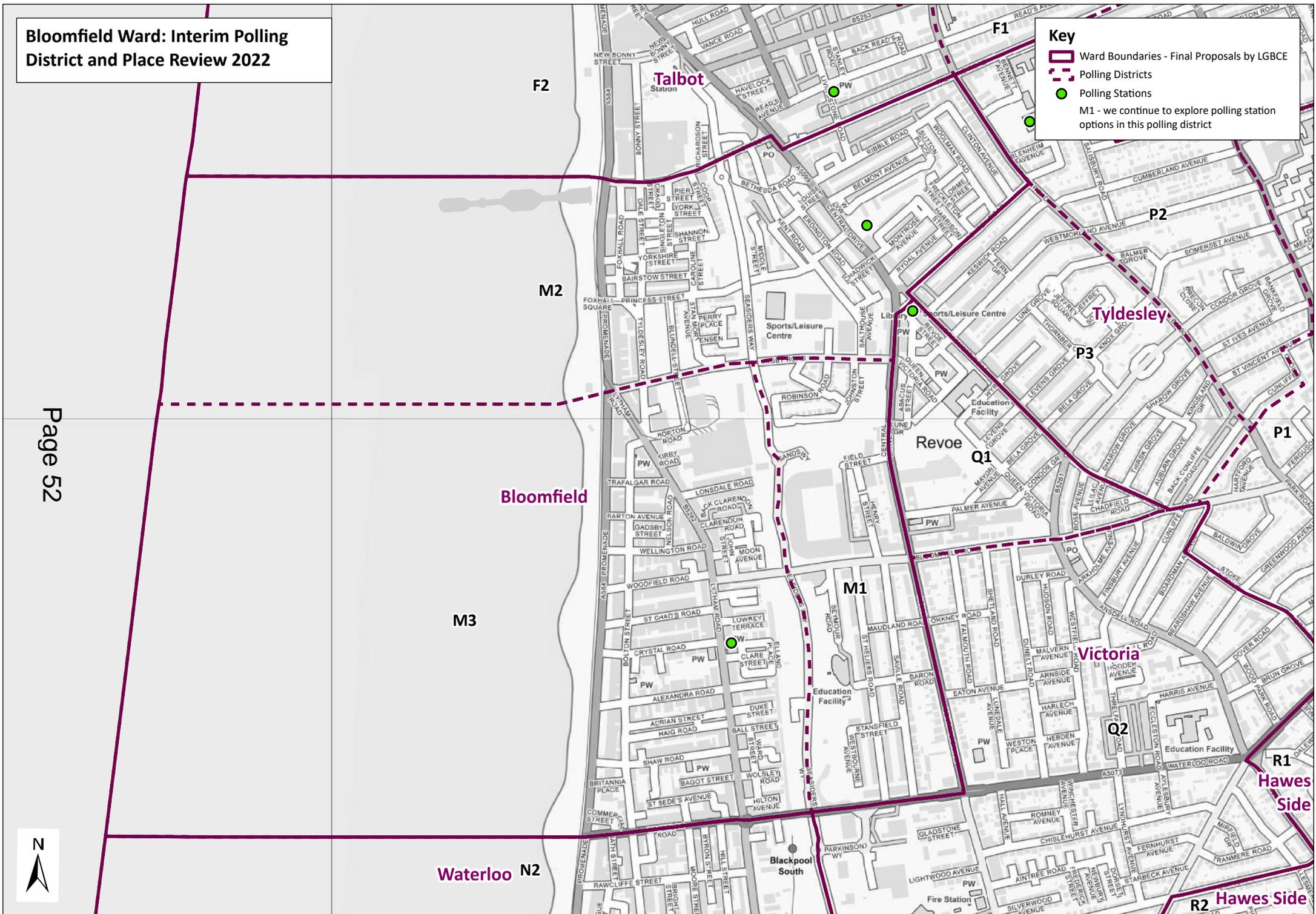


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Bloomfield Ward: Interim Polling District and Place Review 2022

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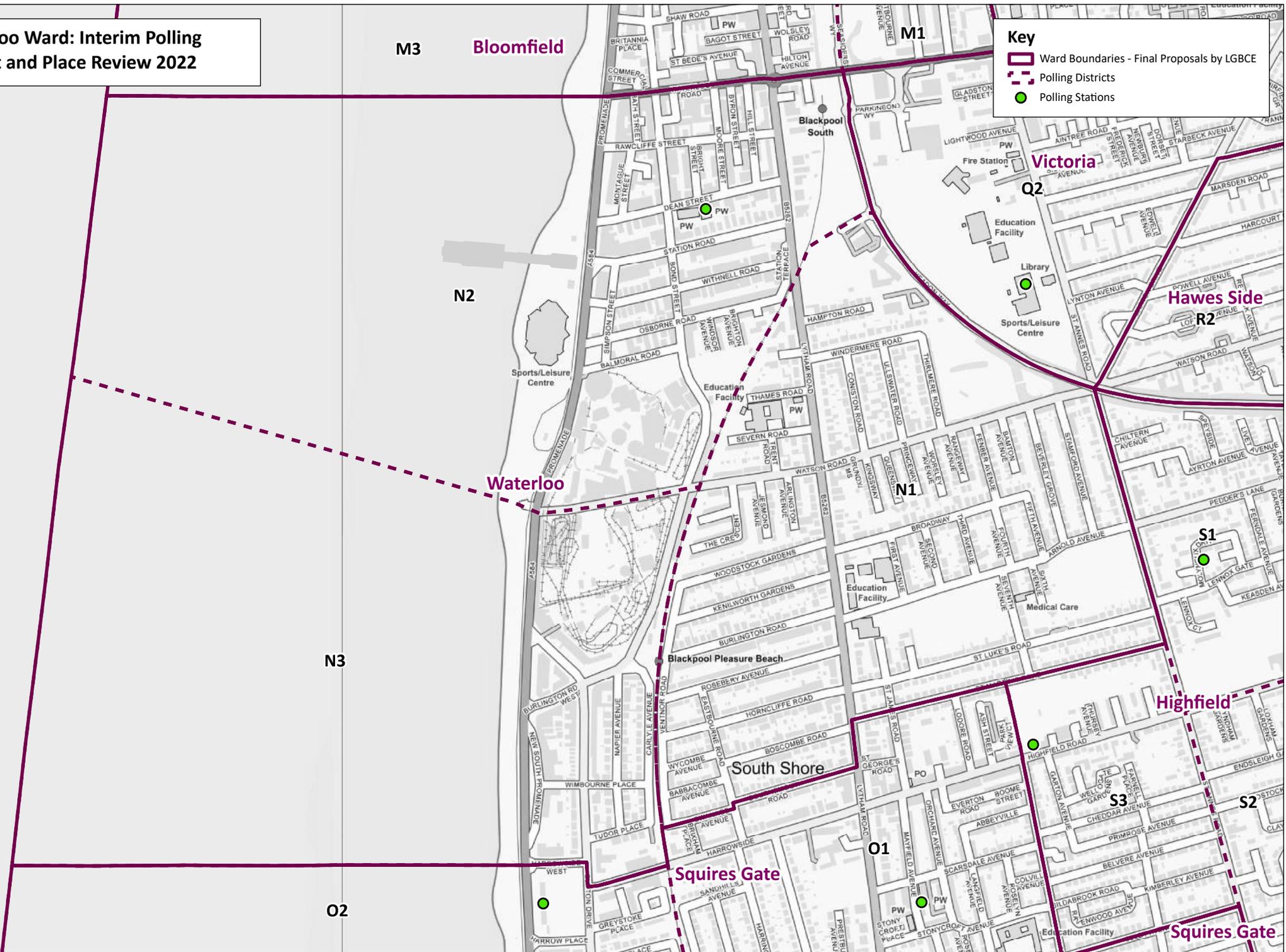
- Ward Boundaries - Final Proposals by LGBCE
- Polling Districts
- Polling Stations
- M1 - we continue to explore polling station options in this polling district



M3 Bloomfield

Key

- Ward Boundaries - Final Proposals by LGBCE
- Polling Districts
- Polling Stations

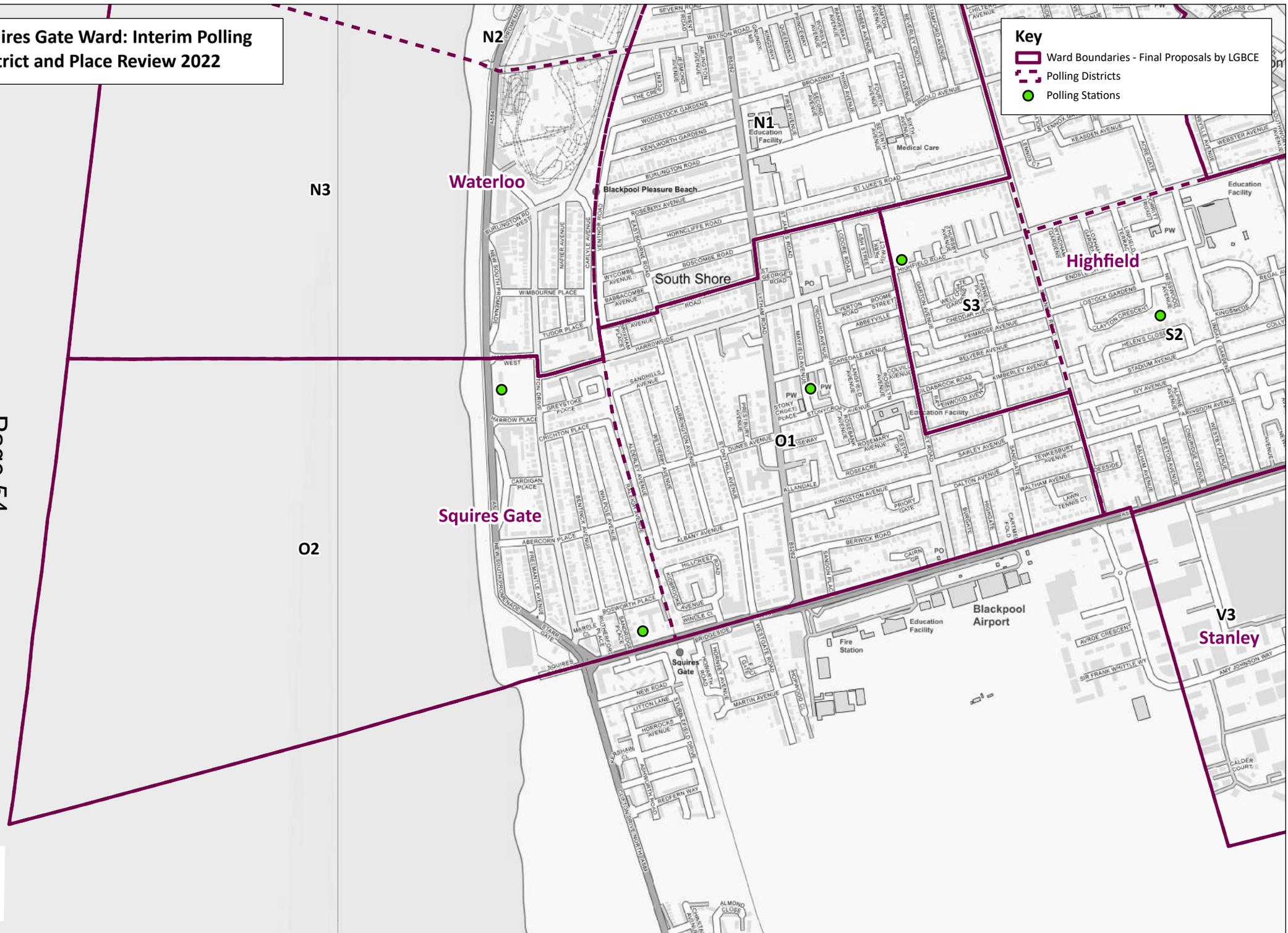


Squires Gate Ward: Interim Polling District and Place Review 2022

Key

- Ward Boundaries - Final Proposals by LGBCE
- Polling Districts
- Polling Stations

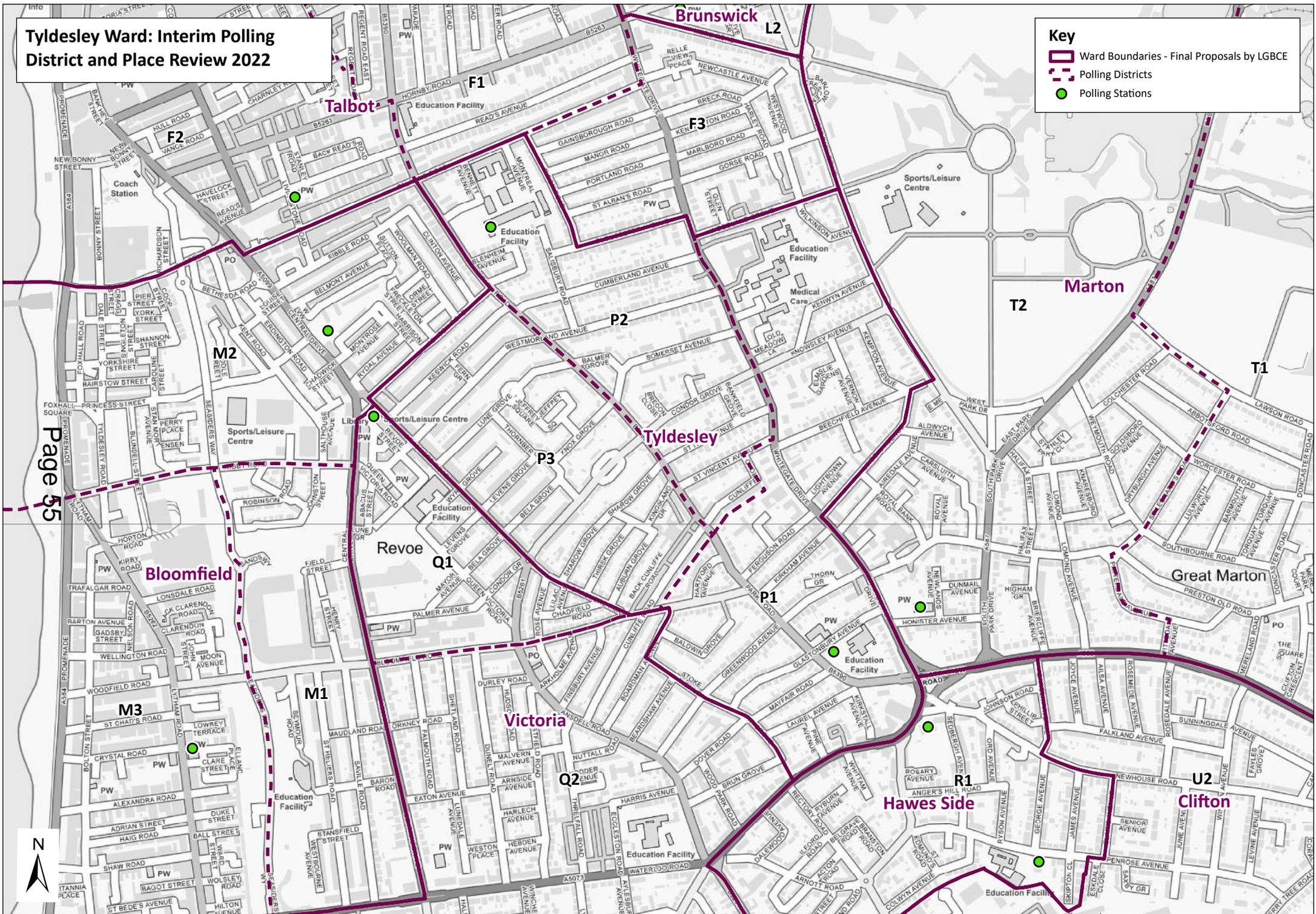
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Tyldesley Ward: Interim Polling District and Place Review 2022

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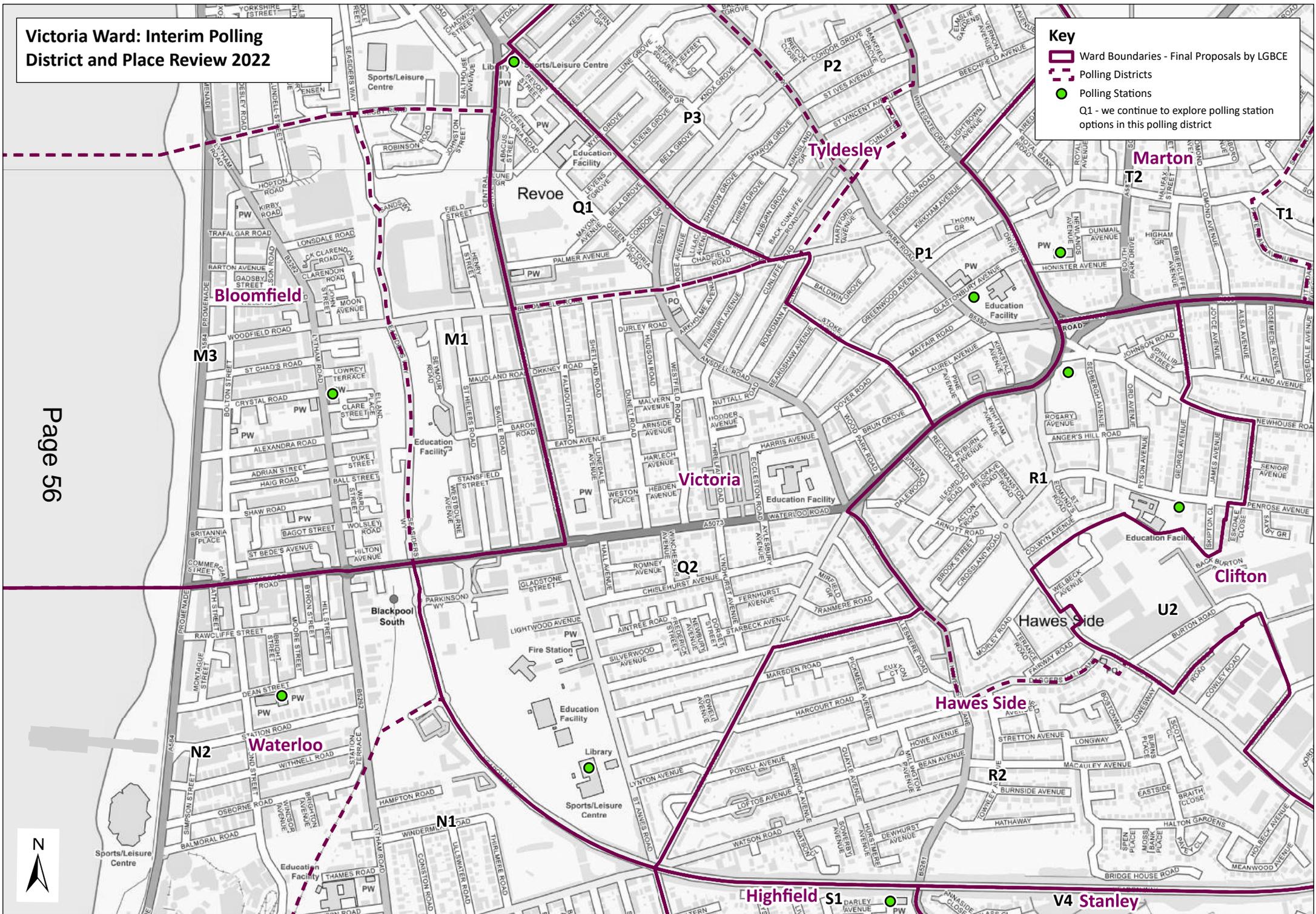
- Ward Boundaries - Final Proposals by LGBCE
- Polling Districts
- Polling Stations



Victoria Ward: Interim Polling District and Place Review 2022

Key

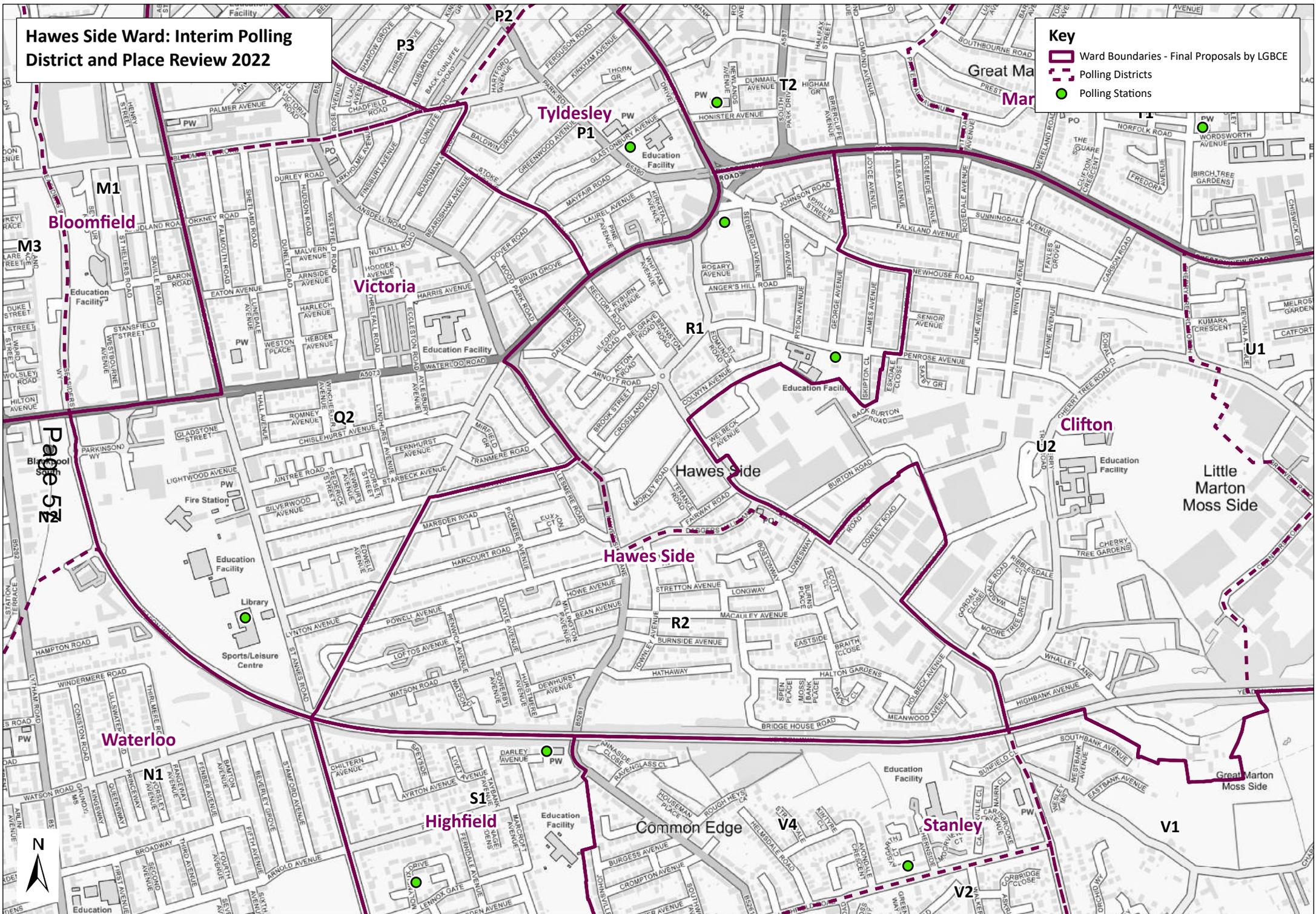
-  Ward Boundaries - Final Proposals by LGBCE
-  Polling Districts
-  Polling Stations
- Q1 - we continue to explore polling station options in this polling district



Hawes Side Ward: Interim Polling District and Place Review 2022

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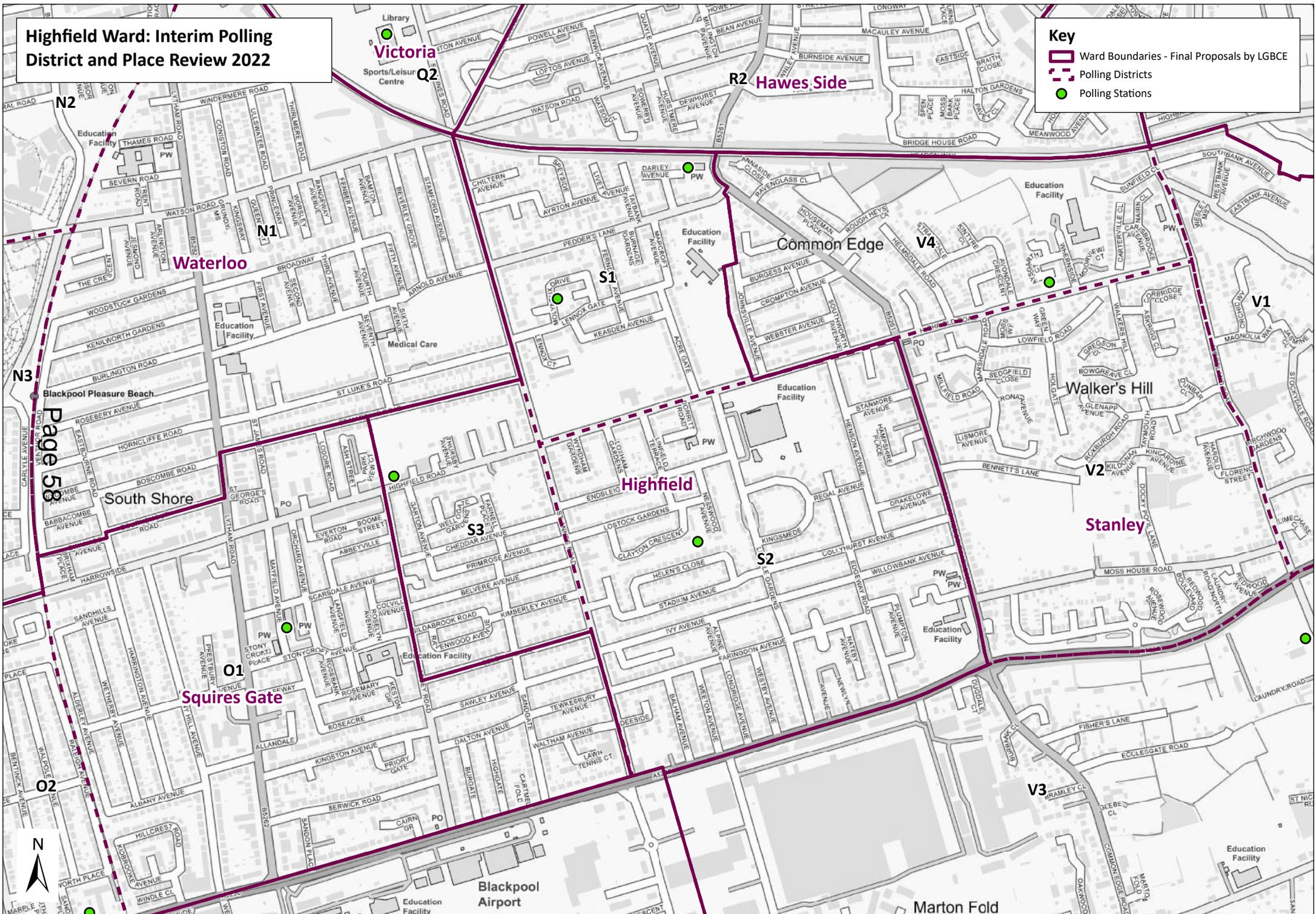
- Ward Boundaries - Final Proposals by LGBCE
- Polling Districts
- Polling Stations



Highfield Ward: Interim Polling District and Place Review 2022

Key

- Ward Boundaries - Final Proposals by LGBCE
- Polling Districts
- Polling Stations

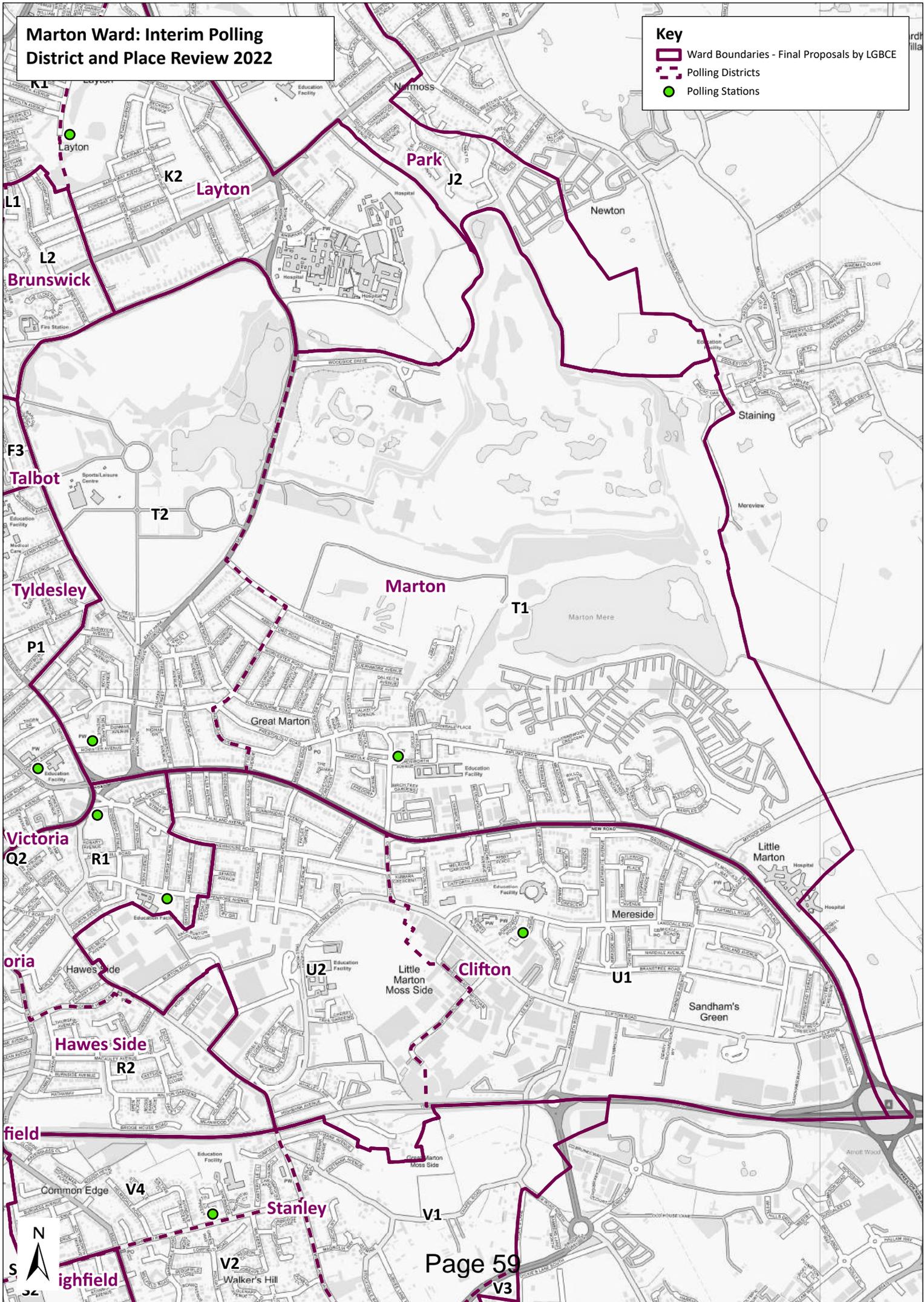


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Marton Ward: Interim Polling District and Place Review 2022

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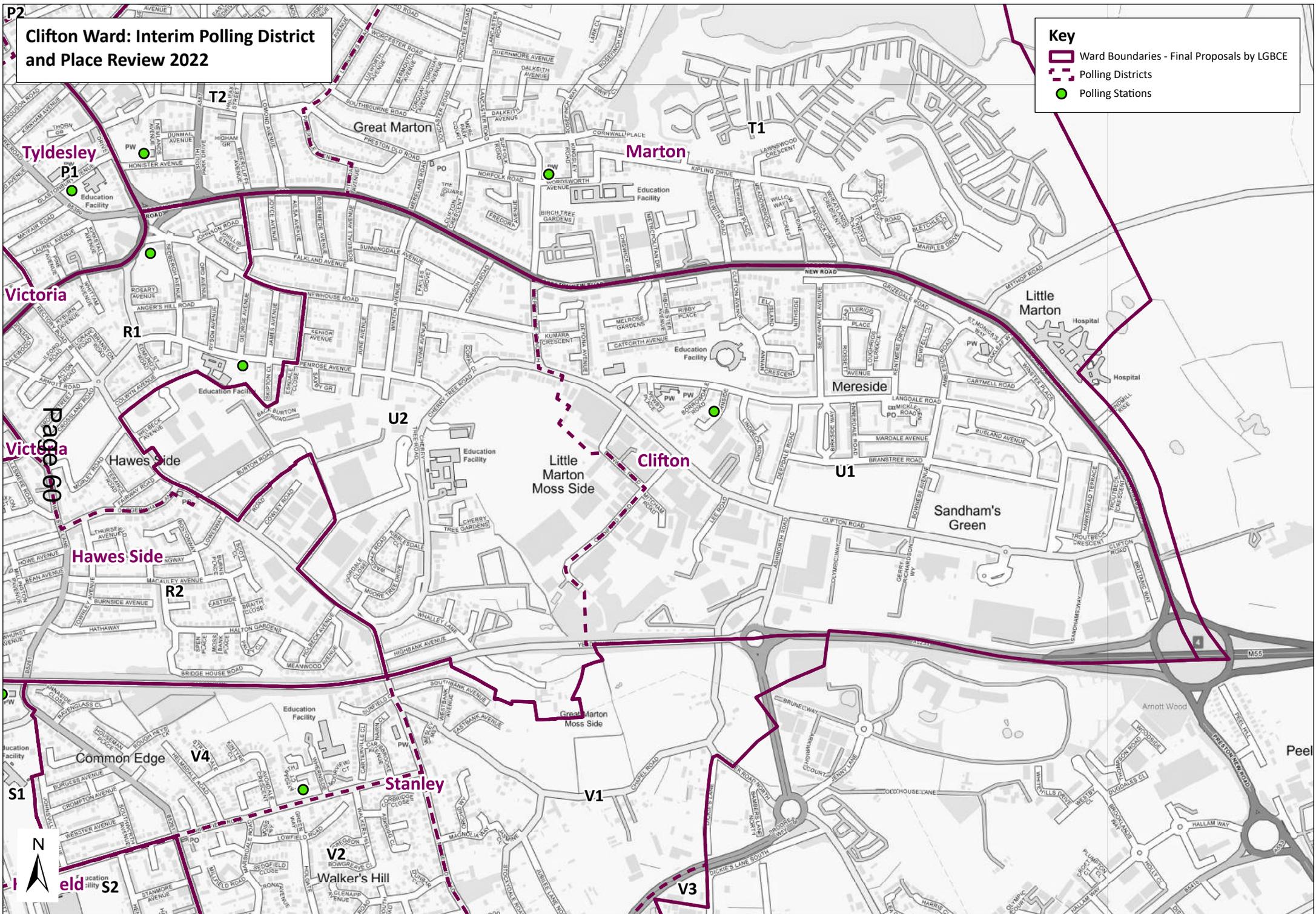
-  Ward Boundaries - Final Proposals by LGBCE
-  Polling Districts
-  Polling Stations



Clifton Ward: Interim Polling District and Place Review 2022

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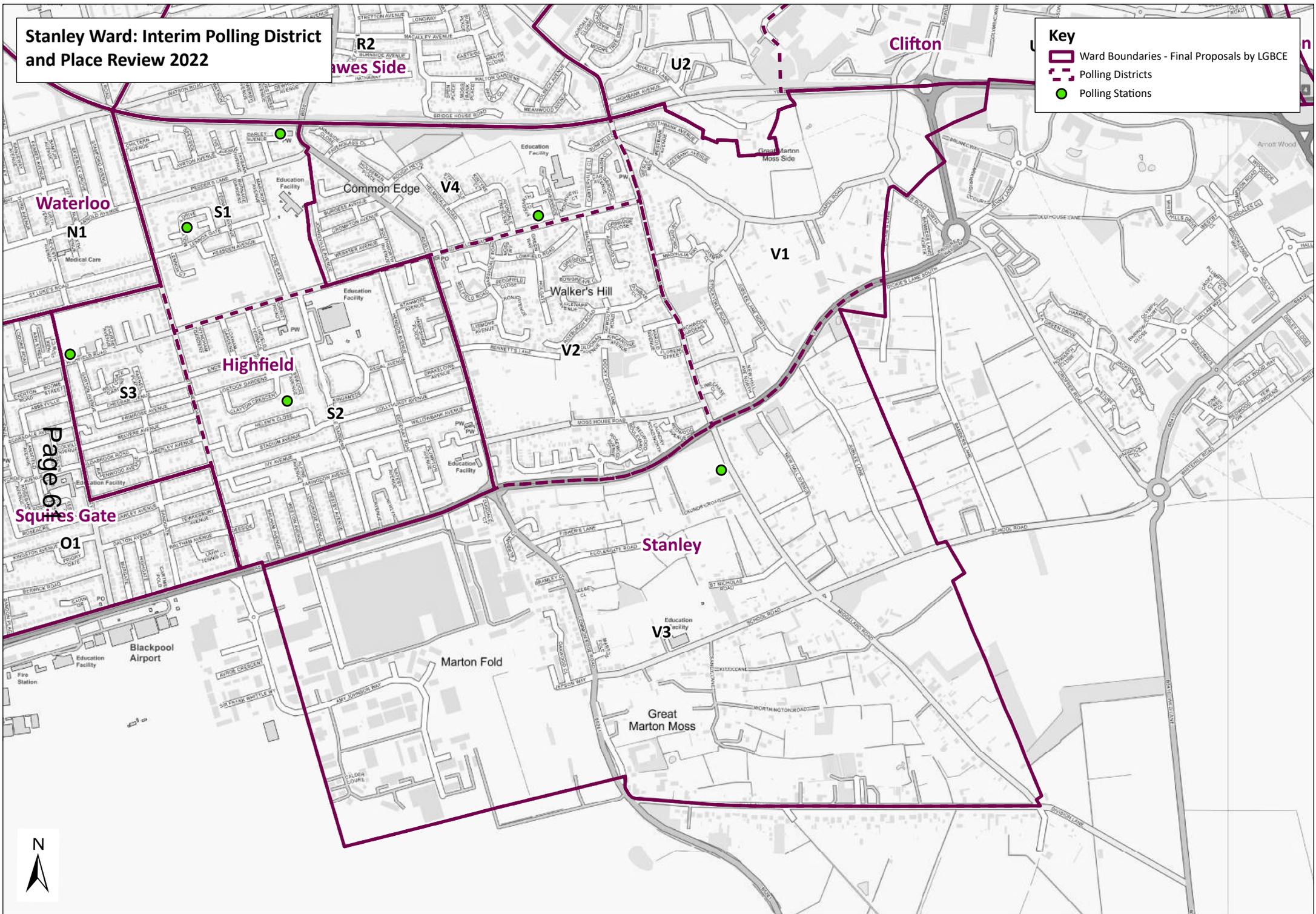
- Ward Boundaries - Final Proposals by LGBCE
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Stanley Ward: Interim Polling District and Place Review 2022

Key

- Ward Boundaries - Final Proposals by LGBCE
- Polling Districts
- Polling Stations



Page 6

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Report to:	COUNCIL
Relevant Officer:	Mark Towers, Director of Governance and Partnerships
Relevant Cabinet Member:	Councillor L Williams, Leader of the Council
Date of Meeting:	30 November 2022

REVISED POLITICAL BALANCE AND MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES

1.0 Purpose of the report:

1.1 The Council will be asked to consider the re-appointment of its committees, in accordance with the Council's Constitution and the Local Government Act 1972, due to changes in the political make-up following the by-election.

2.0 Recommendation(s):

2.1 To re-appoint the following Council committees, with powers and duties as set out in the Council's Constitution:

- Adult Social Care and Health Scrutiny Committee
- Tourism, Economy and Communities Scrutiny Committee
- Children and Young People's Scrutiny Committee
- Audit Committee
- Appeals Committee
- Planning Committee
- Standards Committee
- Chief Officers Employment Committee

2.2 To re-appoint a Scrutiny Leadership Board, with the powers set out in the Council's constitution and for the Board to continue to have an adjusted political balance membership of three Labour, four Conservative (to be made up of the Chairs, Vice Chairs of the three Scrutiny Committees and the Chair of the Audit Committee).

2.3 Subject to 2.2 above, to continue the inclusion of the non-aligned member Councillor Mrs Callow to the Board and to also appoint her as Chair of the Scrutiny Leadership Board.

2.4 To agree the revised political balance attached at Appendix 6(a) and appointments to the above committees at Appendix 6(b) (the latter will be circulated separately).

2.5 To re-appoint the Licensing Committee with the powers and duties as set out in the Constitution (equating to a revised membership figure of 13 and a composition of seven Labour, five Conservative and one Blackpool Independent).

- 2.6 Subject to (2.5) above, to request the Licensing Committee to re-appoint the Public Protection Sub-Committee, with the powers and duties, as set out in the Constitution including the appointment of the Chair and Vice-Chair.
- 2.7 To agree that any membership changes to committees or sub-committees during the remainder of the Municipal Year be reported to the Director of Governance and Partnerships by the relevant Group Leader for implementation.
- 2.8 Subject to the approval of the above recommendations, to agree to the memberships of the committees of the Council and their Chairs and Vice Chairs as set out in Appendix 6(b) (to be circulated separately).
- 2.9 To note the membership of the Health and Wellbeing Board, as this is unaffected by political balance arrangements.
- 2.10 Subject to the approval of the above recommendations, to agree that the Director of Governance and Partnerships be authorised to amend the Constitution accordingly.

3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

- 3.1 To enable Council business to be transacted by various committees and for the size of the committees to reflect the current political balance of the political groups on the Council. This will also meet statutory requirements.
- 3.2a Is the recommendation contrary to a plan or strategy adopted or approved by the Council? No
- 3.2b Is the recommendation in accordance with the Council’s approved budget? Yes

3.3 Other alternative options to be considered:

There are no other options other than a different or varied set of committees; however, the current committees have been appointed by Council in recent years and help transact the business of Council efficiently.

4.0 Council Priority:

- 4.1 The appointment of Council committees will help the Council achieve all its priorities.

5.0 Background Information

- 5.1 At the annual meeting in May 2022, Council agreed the formation of its committees and their respective powers and duties as set out in the Constitution. The membership of committees was reviewed in September 2022 following changes to the political groups. Following the sad death of Councillor John Wing in August, a by-election was called and duly held on 17 November 2022 resulting in a revised political membership of the Council of 20 Labour, 15 Conservative, 3 Blackpool Independents and 4 non-grouped independent members.
- 5.2 The allocation of seats to committees and the structure agreed at the Annual meeting has been the foundation from which this review of the political balance calculations has been undertaken in order to meet the requirements of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and the associated regulations.
- 5.3 Although not subject to political balance rules, it is recommended that the same methodology be applied to the Licensing Committee and for a committee to equate to a membership of 13 (as per Annual meeting decision), then there would be seven Labour councillors, five Conservative councillors and one Blackpool Independent group councillor.
- 5.4 The Licensing Committee would also need to appoint one permanent sub-committee - Public Protection - which is subject to the political balance rules and therefore has to be included in the aggregated proportionality calculations.
- 5.5 A full schedule of political balance calculations for all the proposed committees and the permanent sub-committee is attached at Appendix 6(a). These have been allocated by 'political group'. A 'political group' is one, which has been constituted in accordance with Regulation 8 of the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990 and consists of at least two members. The 4 non-grouped independents, as they are not part of a political group, are not automatically entitled to a seat on a committee.
- 5.6 As a result of the by-election the Labour group will gain two seats overall and following consultation with the Group Leader the additional seats will be on Appeals Committee and Standards Committee. (These are the two seats the Labour Group lost following a reduction of their group in the September 2022 review). The Conservative Group and Blackpool Independents group allocations stay the same.
- 5.7 **Appointment of Chairs** –Appendix 6(b) (to be circulated separately) lists the notified names of committee members and proposed chair and vice-chair positions. The appointment of the Chair and Vice Chair for the Public Protection Sub-Committee is a matter for the Licensing Committee to deal with. However, it is recommended that these positions be occupied by the same people. There are no proposed changes to the Chair and Vice-Chair positions.

5.8 It is recommended following consultation with the Leader of the Council that as has been previous practice, the following principles be applied:

- the Chair of the Audit Committee is from the principal opposition group and the Vice Chair from the majority group
- the Chair positions in all three Scrutiny Committees be filled by majority group councillors and the Vice Chair positions be filled by principal opposition councillors
- the Vice Chair of the Licensing Committee be filled by a principal opposition councillor
- all other proposals for Chairs and Vice Chairs are filled by councillors from the majority group.

List of Appendices:

Appendix 6(a) - Political balance calculations

Appendix 6(b) - Proposed membership of the Council's committees and the Health and Wellbeing Board (to be circulated separately)

6.0 Legal considerations:

6.1 The Local Government and Housing Act 1989 requires the Council to review periodically the political composition of the Authority and how this is applied to appointments to Council bodies. The rules for securing political balance on committees and sub-committees appointed by local authorities are contained in sections 15 and 16 of the Act and the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations, 1990. See:

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/1990/1553/regulation/17/made>

7.0 Equalities considerations:

7.1 There are no equalities considerations.

8.0 Financial considerations:

8.1 Special responsibility allowances for the proposed Chairs and Vice Chairs are met from the Members Allowances' budget.

9.0 Risk management considerations:

9.1 Failure to appoint certain committees will hinder the Council in maintaining its statutory duties i.e. consideration of planning applications, hearing of appeals etc.

10.0 Sustainability, climate change and environmental considerations:

10.1 None.

11.0 Internal/ External Consultation undertaken:

11.1 The Group Leaders put forward nominations for their representatives to serve on the recommended committees.

12.0 Background papers:

12.1 There are no additional background papers to this report.

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Political Balance Allocations - November 2022

STAGE 1 - Percentage representation on the Council:

Party	Membership	Percentage %
Labour	20	47.62
Conservative	15	35.71
Blackpool Independents	3	7.14
	<u>38 *</u>	<u>90.48</u>

* Four councillors are not part of a political group and therefore are not included in these political balance calculations.

STAGE 2 - Total number of seats on committees to be allocated:

Committee Name	Membership
Scrutiny Leadership Board	7 (plus Independent Chair giving overall membership of 8)
Tourism, Economy and Communities Scrutiny Committee	9
Children and Young People's Scrutiny Committee	9
Adult Social Care and Health Scrutiny Committee	9
Audit Committee	7
Planning Committee	7
Appeals Committee	5
Public Protection Sub-Committee	7
Chief Officers Employment Committee	9
Standards Committee	5
	<u>74</u>
Total	74

STAGE 3 - Total allocation of seats to each party:

(This stage is to ensure as far as possible that the number of seats allocated to a group in total, is in the same proportion as the number of members of the group on the Council as a whole)

Party	Number of seats	Seats (rounded)
Labour	35.24	35
Conservative	26.43	26
Blackpool Independents	5.29	5
		<u>66</u>

STAGE 4 - Working calculations for individual committees

(This stage is to ensure that as far as possible, the number of seats allocated to a group on each committee, is in the same proportion as the number of members of the group on the Council as a whole).

Committee	Party	Seats on each committee	Seat entitlement	Allocation for each committee	Adjusted seat allocation	New total of seats on each committee
Scrutiny Leadership Board	Labour	7	3.33	3	3	7
	Conservative		2.50	3	4	
	Blackpool Independents		0.50	0	0	
Tourism, Economy and Communities Scrutiny Committee	Labour	9	4.29	4	4	8
	Conservative		3.21	3	3	
	Blackpool Independents		0.64	1	1	
Children and Young People's Scrutiny Committee	Labour	9	4.29	4	4	8
	Conservative		3.21	3	3	
	Blackpool Independents		0.64	1	1	
Adult Social Care and Health Scrutiny Committee	Labour	9	4.29	4	4	8
	Conservative		3.21	3	3	
	Blackpool Independents		0.64	1	1	
Audit	Labour	7	3.33	3	3	6
	Conservative		2.50	3	3	
	Blackpool Independents		0.50	0	0	
Planning	Labour	7	3.33	3	4	8
	Conservative		2.50	3	3	
	Blackpool Independents		0.50	0	1	
Appeals	Labour	5	2.38	2	3	5
	Conservative		1.79	2	2	
	Blackpool Independents		0.36	0	0	
Public Protection Sub-Committee	Labour	7	3.33	3	3	5
	Conservative		2.50	3	2	
	Blackpool Independents		0.50	0	0	
Chief Officers Employment	Labour	9	4.29	4	4	7
	Conservative		3.21	3	2	
	Blackpool Independents		0.64	1	1	
Standards	Labour	5	2.38	2	3	4
	Conservative		1.79	2	1	
	Blackpool Independents		0.36	0	0	
Total Seats			64			66

At Annual Meeting in 2019, agreed for this Cttee to be made up of Chairs/ V Chairs of Scrutiny Cttees, plus Audit Chair (7 members) plus Indep Chair not included in these calculations (making 8 members) therefore political balance adjusted to fit.

Agreed at Annual Council that 1 additional seat be given to Blackpool Independents and 1 to Labour to provide an overall balance

Add 1 seat back in for Labour to provide overall balance

Agreed in September review to reduce 1 seat for conservatives to provide overall balance

Agreed at Annual meeting to reduce Conservatives by 1 seat to provide overall balance

Add 1 seat back in for Labour to provide overall balance.
Agreed in September review to reduce 1 seat for conservatives to provide overall balance

	Stage 4	Stage 4 (revised)	Stage 3
Labour	32	35	35
Conservative	28	26	26
Blackpool Independents	4	5	5
	64	66	66

Note 1

Stage 3 overrides Stage 4. Therefore there has to be changes to the stage 4 allocations to align with the allocations produced by stage 3. (Council agreed at Annual Meeting in May 2019, to have a Scrutiny Leadership Board which was not politically balanced). The seat allocation has been adjusted accordingly.

At the Annual Council meeting in May 2022 and the review in September 2022, committees were adjusted to achieve political balance and where appropriate this has continued. Any exceptions to this are listed in the table above
If the Council wishes to allocate seats **other** than reflects the revised stage 4 allocation per group, this would require a resolution of Council, which no member votes against.

Note 2

The Licensing Committee does not fall under these statutory rules and has therefore not been included in the political balance calculations
However, it is recommended that the composition of the Licensing Committee be also reflective of the political balance of the Council which now equates to a committee of 13: 7 Labour, 5 Conservative, 1 Blackpool Independent.

Note 3

The Public Protection Sub-Committee **does** not derive its responsibility from the Licensing Act 2003 and is therefore part of the aggregate political balance calculations.

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Report to:	COUNCIL
Date of Meeting	30 November 2022

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL

1.0 Purpose of the report:

- 1.1 To consider the report of the Independent Remuneration Panel in relation to a review of the uprate to the Members Allowances Scheme and payment of certain special responsibility allowances.

2.0 Recommendation(s):

- 2.1 To consider the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel, as set out in paragraph 7 at Appendix 7(a).
- 2.2 That subject to the decision of Council, the Director of Governance and Partnerships be authorised to update the Members' Allowances Scheme accordingly.

3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

- 3.1 The Independent Remuneration panel has a duty to undertake a review of allowances under the Members' Allowances Scheme when referred by Council. The Council has a duty to consider the recommendations of the Panel but may make its own decisions.

4.0 Background Information

- 4.1 The Independent Remuneration Panel was formed by the Council in 2001 and has a duty to provide the Council with recommendations on its scheme of members' allowances and amounts to be paid.
- 4.2 The Panel's terms of reference are to consider and make recommendations to the Council on the following:

basic allowance – the amount to be paid to all members of the Council.

special responsibility allowance – the roles for which this allowance should be paid and the levels of the allowance in each case.

travel and subsistence allowance – the duties for which this allowance should be paid and the amount.

co-optees allowance – whether this allowance should be paid and at what level.

childcare and dependent carer’s allowance – whether this allowance should be paid, at what level and how it should be calculated.

backdating allowances – whether any allowance should be backdated to the beginning of the financial year in the event of the scheme being amended.

annual adjustment of allowances – whether annual adjustments may be made by reference to an index, and, if so, how long such a measure should run.

4.3 The Panel also makes recommendations to Council regarding remuneration to be paid to the Chair and Non-Executive Directors of Council wholly owned companies.

4.4 The Panel was convened to meet on 16 November 2022 to consider the following:

- the annual uprate of the scheme which, as set out in the Members’ Allowances Scheme, is revised in line with the staff NJC percentage increase. As the staff pay award is not based on a percentage increase this year (a fixed payment has been agreed), the Panel was asked to make recommendations on an appropriate uprate figure
- the payment of more than one special responsibility allowance
- a plan for undertaking the full review of the scheme and for an allowance for the Armed Forces Champion.

4.5 The report of the Panel and rationale for its proposals to Council has been included as an appendix.

List of Appendices

Appendix 7(a) – Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel.

5.0 Legal considerations

5.1 The Local Government Act 2000 and subsequent regulations set out the process to establish and maintain a Members Allowances scheme. The Independent Remuneration Panel appointed under that legislation has a duty to provide the Council with recommendations on its scheme of members’ allowances and amounts to be paid. The current Members Allowances Scheme is part of the Council’s Constitution at this link: <https://www.blackpool.gov.uk/Your-Council/The-Council/Council-constitution-and-plans/Council-constitution.aspx>

6.0 Equalities Considerations

6.1 One of the roles of the Independent Remuneration Panel under the Local Government Act 2000 and associated legislation is to recommend what it considers

fair and appropriate allowances in relation to levels paid to members working in comparable authorities.

7.0 Financial considerations

7.1 Allowances are funded from the Member Allowances budget.

8.0 Risk management considerations:

9.1 None.

10.0 Sustainability, climate change and environmental considerations:

10.1 None

11.0 Internal/ External Consultation undertaken:

11.1 The Independent Remuneration Panel has undertaken a review of the scheme and has formed these proposals to Council.

12.0 Background papers:

12.1 None

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Report of: The Independent Remuneration Panel
To: Blackpool Council on Wednesday 30 November 2022

Review of the Members' Allowances Scheme

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Council has appointed an Independent Remuneration Panel to advise the Council on the adoption of a scheme of members' allowances.
- 1.2 The Panel was convened under the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 (SI 1021). These regulations, which arise out of the relevant provisions in the Local Government Act 2000, require all local authorities to set up and maintain an advisory Independent Remuneration Allowances Panel to review and provide advice on Members' allowances. All Councils are required to convene their Allowances Panel and seek its advice before they make any changes or amendments to their allowances scheme and they must 'pay regard' to the Panel's recommendations before setting a new or amended Members' Allowances Scheme.
- 1.3 We were asked to consider and make proposals to Blackpool Council on:
 - the uprate figure to be applied from 1 April 2022 as there was no percentage increase for staff (the comparator used in the scheme) and instead a fixed payment for staff
 - consideration of payment for more than one special responsibility allowance, following a request for this
 - a proposed schedule for a full review of the Members' Allowances Scheme which takes place every four years
 - as part of the above, whether a special responsibility allowance should be in place for the Armed Forces Champion, following a request for this
- 1.4 A meeting of the Panel was held on 16 November 2022 in relation to the above.

2. Methodology

- 2.1 We were supplied with the following information to assist us in our work:
 - The current Members' Allowances Scheme and some options for an appropriate uprate to the scheme
 - Details of the guidance document on members allowances and an outline of the political management structure
 - Details of regulatory committees in relation to responsibilities, time commitment and level of training required
 - Brief details of the Armed Forces Champion role published on the Council's website
 - A proposed outline for a full review of the scheme based on the previous four year review

2.2 The Director of Governance and Partnerships and Head of Democratic Governance attended the meeting to answer questions from the Panel.

3.0 Uprate to the Members' Allowances Scheme for 2022/23

3.1 The Member Allowances Scheme states

“From 2012, the amounts in this scheme will be uprated annually in line with the National Joint Council (NJC) for Local Government Service pay award (with the exception of mileage allowances which will be uprated at the same time as staff mileage allowances).....” This uplift method was again reviewed and confirmed in 2015 and 2019 as part of the full review of Member Allowances.

3.2 The way in which the Local Government pay Award has been applied has changed this year to be a fixed payment to all staff of £1,925 rather than a percentage increase. The Members' basic allowance at Blackpool is currently £10,663.90 per annum meaning the application of this same uplift would require an increase of approximately 18%, which is significantly more than the percentage increase for employees (the payment equates to a mean average of 6.2% for employees in Blackpool Council), backdated to April 2022. As part of the agreement there will also be an uplift to expenses/ allowances payable to staff of 4.04% (this uprate percentage would normally apply to similar travel and subsistence allowances for members).

3.3 We acknowledged that the reasons for the pay award such as cost of living, inflation, rising energy costs and that the fact that the Foundation Living Wage (formerly the Joseph Rowntree Living wage) had risen from £9.90 per hour in 2021 to £10.90 per hour in 2022 which we had originally used to calculate the basic members allowance, were all valid reasons that there should be some uplift to Members Allowances.

3.4 We were informed that many Councils faced a dilemma in terms of an uplift figure to be applied as the NJC award percentage was a common uprate factor in Members' Allowances schemes. Local authorities who use the NJC scheme for the uplift process are now asking their Independent Remuneration Panels to consider options for an appropriate uplift to be applied to the Member Allowances Scheme. The options have been identified as:

- a) No change to the current allowances. Basic allowance remains at £10,663.90 per annum.
- b) The Members' basic allowance receives the same uprate as staff, so an extra £1,925 increase to the current £10,663.90, taking the basic allowance to £12,558.90. This equates to around an 18% increase, which is much higher than the raise for the lowest paid workers.
- c) The Members' basic allowance receives the Blackpool staff mean average of 6.2% increase.
- d) The basic allowance receives the 4.04% allowance increase as the figure used to uprate other allowances in the scheme.
- e) The CPI inflation rate rose by 11.1% in the 12 months to October 2022.

- 3.5 We considered all of the above options and were also aware that some Lancashire authorities had asked their Independent Remuneration Panels to consider a 4.04% uprate and that there was evidence of a similar rate being considered in other parts of the country. We were mindful that it was important to consider comparative authorities who use the NJC uplift in reaching a conclusion on a fair rate.
- 3.6 It was acknowledged that this was an unusual year in that the percentage uprate was not automatically being applied and that a full review of the Members' Allowances Scheme would be undertaken in any case in 2023, where any further adjustments could be made from that point.
- 3.7 Following discussion on a rate to be applied, it was considered by the Panel that a 4.04% uplift to the basic allowance was appropriate, given the information above.
- 3.8 In terms of special responsibility allowances, we considered the 4.04% uprate be similarly applied to these with the exception of the following:
- Chair and members of the Shareholder Committee
 - Chair, Audit Committee Chair and non-executive directors of all Council companies
 - Standards Independent Persons
 - Independent members of the Audit Committee
- as these allowances had more recently been reviewed and uplifted.
- 3.9 It was noted that allowances for the Fostering Panel were uprated in line with those for independent representatives on the Panel.
- 4.0 Payment of more than one special responsibility allowance (SRA)**
- 4.1 In our report to Council in June 2019, we recommended Council (and it agreed) that the expectation that only one SRA should be paid should continue, however, where a councillor was appointed to two roles and there was a request to consider a second allowance, the Panel would consider this on its merits.
- 4.2 We have considered requests on two occasions where a councillor has been appointed to more than one role and were aware that there had been similar individual requests made since to consider a second SRA. At our meeting we discussed whether alternative provisions within the Scheme would be more appropriate either through a delegation arrangement or a provision in the Scheme itself to allow a second SRA to be paid for certain committees.
- 4.3 Further details of committees set out in the political management structure in the constitution was requested and in reviewing that information, we noted that the Chair and Vice Chair positions of particular regulatory/ governance committees – namely Appeals Committee, Audit Committee, Planning Committee and Public Protection Sub Committee - required a greater level of time commitment, accountability (dealing with regulatory and governance process and procedure) and formal training prior to taking up positions and beyond.
- 4.4 Having considered the above information, we concluded that there is merit in allowing an SRA for these in addition to one other SRA.

4.5 We also concluded that a provision within the Members' Allowances Scheme setting out this principle in relation to the regulatory committees at 4.3 above, would provide greater clarity and transparency in terms of application.

5.0 Armed Forces Champion

5.1 We were aware of a request to consider whether or not an allowance should be paid for this role. It was noted that this was a role that had been established over a number of years in Blackpool and many cities/towns across the country, but the role had not been reviewed previously as part of the Members' Allowances Scheme. We were conscious that we needed to identify comparator authorities along with further details of the responsibilities and therefore considered that this should form part of the full four year review when the information gathering exercise would be undertaken.

6.0 Full four-yearly review

6.1 We considered the last full review in 2019 and agreed that a similar programme was undertaken in 2023 with meetings prior to the election to undertake some preparatory work as well as post-election when any revised political managements were in place.

7.0 Recommendations to Council

7.1 That a 4.04% uprate is applied to the basic allowance, special responsibility allowances (with the exception of those set out in paragraphs 3.8 and 3.9) and travel/subsistence allowances for members for financial year 2022/23.

7.2 That in relation to Chairs and Vice-Chairs of the Appeals Committee, Audit Committee, Planning Committee and Public Protection Sub-Committee, the special responsibility allowance (SRA) for these positions can be paid in addition to one other SRA from within the Political management structure as set out in the constitution.

7.3 In relation to 7.2 above, that this takes effect from the Annual Meeting 2022 and that the Members' Allowances Scheme is amended to include this provision.

7.4 That consideration of whether a special responsibility allowance for the Armed Forces Champion would be considered as part of the full four year review.

Mr N Kilgallon
Mrs H Hockenhull
Mr G Molyneux

Report to:	COUNCIL
Relevant Officer:	Sharon Davis, Scrutiny Manager
Relevant Member:	Councillor Maxine Callow, Scrutiny Lead Member
Date of Meeting:	30 November 2022

SCRUTINY UPDATE REPORT

1.0 Purpose of the report:

1.1 To update Council on the scrutiny activity undertaken in the 2022/2023 Municipal Year to date.

2.0 Recommendation(s):

2.1 That Council considers the work carried out by scrutiny, seeking further information from the Scrutiny Lead Member as appropriate.

3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

3.1 To ensure Council has an overview of the work of the Scrutiny Leadership Board and Scrutiny Committees at the Council.

3.2 Is the recommendation contrary to a plan or strategy adopted or approved by the Council? No

3.3 Is the recommendation in accordance with the Council's approved budget? Yes

4.0 Other alternative options to be considered:

4.1 None.

5.0 Council priority:

5.1 The relevant Council priorities are:

- The economy: Maximising growth and opportunity across Blackpool
- Communities: Creating stronger communities and increasing resilience.

6.0 Background information

6.1 As part of the North West Employer's scrutiny review it was recommended that the Scrutiny function reported to Council on a regular basis in order to raise the profile of Scrutiny and ensure Council was fully informed of activity. This report summaries the work carried out to date in the 2022/2023 Municipal Year.

6.2 Scrutiny Leadership Board (SLB)

The SLB concluded its review into Channel Shift in the earlier part of the Municipal Year. The review made a series of recommendations all of which were supported by the Executive. The next step for the Board will be to monitor the implementation of the recommendations and regular updates will be requested in order to achieve this.

The Board itself turns its focus now to the scrutiny of the budget for 2023/2024 and is undertaking regular financial and key performance indicator scrutiny through its regular meetings. It is also maintaining a watching brief on the implementation of the Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy.

6.3 Children and Young People's Scrutiny Committee (CYP)

The CYP Scrutiny Committee has had a very busy six months since the start of the Municipal Year carrying out short reviews into Young People Classed as Not in Education, Employment or Training and the Special Educational Needs Written Statement of Actions. It has also received briefings on the Safety Valve Programme and tours of The Platform and the Oracle.

The Committee has two ongoing reviews, one into the Recovery Spend Premium during which Members are scheduled to meet with a number of primary school headteachers to discuss with them how additional resources allocated during Covid had been spent and also jointly with the Adult Social Care and Health Scrutiny Committee on the mental health of young men aged 18-25. Both reviews are scheduled to conclude prior to the start of the pre-election period.

6.4 Adult Social Care and Health Scrutiny Committee

The Committee's current focus is on the development of the new Integrated Care Board and ensuring that the relationships with the NHS are renewed and strengthened. Other key areas of focus for the Committee have included Maternity Services at Blackpool Teaching Hospitals Trust with whom a frank and emotional meeting was held in order to discuss the outcomes of the recent Care Quality Commission inspection and the continued work on mental health services improvement with Lancashire and South Cumbria NHS Foundation Trust.

The Committee has recently concluded a review into dentistry and oral health and will be contributing to the Council's Oral Health Strategy in January 2023. The review into dentistry considered large amounts of data and information from NHS England who commissions dentistry in Blackpool as well as feedback and input from Healthwatch Blackpool and local residents and during the course of the review learnt about the changes that would be made to services over the coming months. The review therefore recommended that the subject be reviewed further in September 2023 once it was clear of the impact of the changes being implemented.

Briefings have also been received on the Pathology Collaboration and the Committee is keeping a close eye on developments in that area.

6.5 Tourism, Economy and Communities Scrutiny Committee (TEC)

The Tourism, Economy and Communities Scrutiny Committee has recently concluded its review on Short Term Lettings, the recommendations of which will be considered by the Executive in January 2023. It will be conducting its annual review of the Community Safety Partnership in January 2023 as well as taking a look at the changes proposed to CCTV in the town.

As part of its regular review of previous review recommendations, the Committee has focussed on the recommendations made by the housing and homelessness review and how these have been implemented with regular reporting back to the Committee. Also considered by the Committee, the Health of the Ocean recommendation on the Council agenda and the development of the Council's Cultural Plan.

In addition, Members have been regularly reviewing the progress made against the Climate Change Action Plan.

6.6 Conclusions of Scrutiny Lead Member

The past few months have been particularly busy for Scrutiny Members and I would like to thank my colleagues for their time and dedication. The reviews we have carried out are all of importance with some complex subjects dealt with. I continue to meet regularly with the Leader of the Council and Cabinet Members are regularly engaged with all types of scrutiny meetings ensuring the relationship between the Executive and Scrutiny continues to build.

We are in the process of concluding all ongoing scrutiny work to ensure it is completed before the start of the pre-election period ready for the new Committees to develop their workplans in the next Municipal Year. I would like to highlight a few particular pieces of work which I feel have really set the bar high for scrutiny in Blackpool so far this year. The Channel Shift review was an incredibly lengthy and detailed look at what channel shift truly means and the recommendations identified, in my view, will have a positive impact on many isolated residents once they have been implemented.

I would like to highlight the work of the Adult Social Care and Health Scrutiny Committee and their efforts to continue to challenge the leaders of the NHS Trusts operating in Blackpool, something which can be particularly difficult for a Scrutiny Committee. Their work to consider the key issue of dentistry in the town was also of significant importance given the difficulties many of residents have in accessing a dentist.

The Children and Young People’s Scrutiny Committee has worked hard to build relationships with Children’s Services and the positive outcomes of this can be evidenced by the increasing involvement of Committee Members in the development of new strategies and programmes such as the SEND Written Statement and the Safety Valve Programme.

The Tourism, Economy and Communities Scrutiny Committee must also be highlighted for its ongoing work in monitoring the recommendations made in relation to housing and homelessness. As part of the drive to ensure recommendations are implemented properly and assess any impact made by those recommendations, we are hoping to develop a tool that will allow reviews such as this to demonstrate the impact they have had and hope to use the housing and homelessness review as a pilot for this.

6.7 Does the information submitted include any exempt information? No

7.0 List of Appendices:

7.1 None.

8.0 Financial considerations:

8.1 None associated with this report.

9.0 Legal considerations:

9.1 None.

10.0 Risk management considerations:

10.1 None.

11.0 Equalities considerations:

11.1 None.

12.0 Sustainability, climate change and environmental considerations:

12.1 None.

13.0 Internal/external consultation undertaken:

13.1 None.

14.0 Background papers:

14.1 None.

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Report to:	COUNCIL
Relevant Officer:	John Blackledge, Director of Community and Environmental Services
Relevant Cabinet Member:	Councillor Jane Hugo, Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Environment
Date of Meeting:	30 November 2022

HEALTH OF THE OCEAN – RECOMMENDATION FROM THE TOURISM, ECONOMY AND COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

1.0 Purpose of the report:

1.1 To set out the recommendation of the Tourism, Economy and Communities Scrutiny Committee to Council for adoption.

2.0 Recommendation(s):

2.1 That the recommendation of the Tourism, Economy and Communities Scrutiny Committee to declare an urgent need for ocean recovery be adopted by Council:

This Council declares an urgent need for Ocean Recovery:

The Council recognises that ocean recovery is needed to meet the Council's net zero carbon targets, and net zero carbon is required to recover the ocean.

This Council pledges to:

1. Report to Full Council within 12 months on the actions and projects that will begin an ocean recovery in Blackpool.
2. Embed ocean recovery in all strategic decisions, budgets, procurement and approaches to decisions by the Council (particularly in planning, regeneration, skills and economic policy), aligning with climate change mitigation and adaptation requirements, and considering ocean-based solutions in the Council's journey towards a carbon neutral and climate resilient future.
3. Ensure that local planning supports ocean recovery, working closely with the Marine Management Organisation to embed strong links between the Local Plan and the Blackpool Marine Plan to support ocean recovery.

4. Ensure that the Blackpool Blue Green Strategy strives to support ocean recovery.
5. Work with partners locally and nationally including the Council's continued involvement with the Turning Tides Partnership to deliver increased sustainability in local marine industries and develop a sustainable and equitable blue economy that delivers ocean recovery and local prosperity, including the local fishing industry and the vital work of IFCA in the North West.
6. Grow ocean literacy and marine citizenship in the Blackpool area, including ensuring all pupils are given the opportunity to have a first-hand experience of the ocean before leaving primary school - striving to include home-schooled children - and promote sustainable and equitable access to the ocean through physical and digital experiences for all residents.
7. Create an online portal on the Council website to update on ocean recovery progress, signpost to ocean literacy development opportunities, and marine citizenship pledges.
8. Write to the Government to put the ocean into net recovery by 2030 by:
 - a) Working with coastal communities to co-develop marine policy to ensure it delivers equitable and sustainable outcomes in local place making.
 - b) Appointing a dedicated Minister for Coastal Communities.
 - c) Stopping plastic pollution at source by strengthening the regulations around single-use plastics and set standards for microfibre-catching filters to ensure that all new domestic and commercial washing machines are fitted with a filter that captures a high percentage of microfibres produced in the wash cycle.
 - d) Listening to marine and social scientific advice to update the Marine Policy Statement and produce a national Ocean Recovery Strategy which will:
 - i. Enable the recovery of marine ecosystems rather than managing degraded or altered habitats in their reduced state.
 - ii. Consider levelling up, marine conservation, energy, industrial growth, flood and coastal erosion risk management, climate adaptation and fisheries policy holistically rather than as competing interests.
 - iii. Develop a smarter approach to managing the health of the entire ocean that moves beyond Marine Protected Areas and enables links to be made across sectors towards sustainability.
 - iv. Establish improved processes for understanding the benefits of ocean recovery, leaving no doubt the links between this and human lives, livelihoods, and wellbeing.

3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

3.1 The issue was considered fully by the Tourism, Economy and Communities Committee which resolved that Council be recommended to approve the recommendation.

3.2 Is the recommendation contrary to a plan or strategy adopted or approved by the Council? No

3.3 Is the recommendation in accordance with the Council's approved budget? Yes

4.0 Other alternative options to be considered:

4.1 Council could determine to not approve the recommendation.

5.0 Council priority:

5.1 The relevant Council priorities are:

- The economy: Maximising growth and opportunity across Blackpool
- Communities: Creating stronger communities and increasing resilience.

6.0 Background information

6.1 The Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Environment submitted a report to the Tourism, Economy and Communities Scrutiny Committee on the Health of the Ocean to its meeting on 28 September 2022. The report sought to inform the Committee of the concerns relating to the health of the ocean and request that the Committee consider making a recommendation to Council to declare an urgent need for ocean recovery.

6.2 The Committee was advised that the recommendation had been developed to address key concerns regarding the health of the ocean and its impact on coastal communities such as Blackpool and covered a number of key issues:

- Our ocean and climate are in a state of emergency, the communities we serve are vulnerable to these emergencies, and local government has an essential and urgent part to play in tackling these interconnected crises.
- As a local authority we have already declared a climate emergency; the ocean is included in our climate action plans, but needs its own working group to ensure we address specific issues and protect our ocean.
- The message from COP 26 stated "A healthy ocean is an essential ally in our fight against climate change".
- The UK government's Marine Strategy assessment confirms that our marine environment is not healthy. An ocean in crisis is not only bad news for our climate, but also for our fishing industry, aquaculture industry, tourism industry

and for the health, wellbeing and prosperity of our coastal communities. Ocean recovery would yield new jobs and opportunities, more resilient coastal economies, and happier, healthier people.

6.3 The detail of the recommendation is based on the model Motion for the Ocean that has been developed to help local authorities play their part in realising a clean, healthy and productive ocean and all of the direct economic, health and wellbeing benefits it will bring. It also helps local authorities communicate the same evidence-based asks around ocean recovery directly to central government – ensuring a louder united voice.

6.4 The following councils have declared an urgent need for ocean recovery using a locally adapted motion for the ocean:

- Plymouth City Council, 22 November 2021
- Falmouth Town Council, 10 January 2022
- South Tyneside Council, 13 January 2022
- North Norfolk District Council, February 2022
- North Devon District Council February 2022
- Monmouthshire County Council March 2022

6.5 Does the information submitted include any exempt information? No

7.0 List of Appendices:

7.1 None.

8.0 Financial considerations:

8.1 None specific to this report, however, any future costs and action would need to be identified and approved as appropriate.

9.0 Legal considerations:

9.1 None associated with this report.

10.0 Risk management considerations:

10.1 None specifically associated with this report, however, risks could be identified from taking no action.

11.0 Equalities considerations:

11.1 None associated with this report.

12.0 Sustainability, climate change and environmental considerations:

12.1 The motion aims to place considerations relating to the health of the ocean at the centre of Council decision making and enable practical local steps achieve this. The motion will also support national efforts by coastal communities to lobby central government to place the ocean in net recovery by 2030.

13.0 Internal/external consultation undertaken:

13.1 None.

14.0 Background papers:

14.1 None.

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Report to:	COUNCIL
Relevant Officer:	Mark Towers, Director of Governance and Partnerships
Relevant Cabinet Member:	Councillor L Williams, Leader of the Council
Date of Meeting:	30 November 2022

REVIEW OF THE CONSTITUTION

1.0 Purpose of the report:

1.1 The Council will be asked to consider amendments to the Articles of the Council and the Procedural Standing Orders for Council and Committee meetings.

2.0 Recommendation(s):

2.1 To agree to the proposed amendments to the Constitution for the Articles of the Constitution at Appendix 10(a) and the Procedural Standing Orders for Council and Committees at Appendix 10(b).

2.2 To note that a briefing session will be held on Monday 28 November 2022 to explain the changes put forward by the Monitoring Officer and the Working Group.

3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

3.1 To bring the constitution up to date and provide more clarity on some issues previously raised at Council meetings.

3.2a Is the recommendation contrary to a plan or strategy adopted or approved by the Council? No

3.2b Is the recommendation in accordance with the Council's approved budget? Yes

3.3 Other alternative options to be considered:

Council could leave these parts of the constitution as they are but there are some out dated practices which do need to be updated/ removed. Council could also agree different changes to these parts of the constitution.

4.0 Council Priority:

4.1 The review of the Constitution will help the Council achieve all its priorities.

5.0 Background Information

- 5.1 Under article 16 of the constitution, the Monitoring Officer has a duty to periodically review the Constitution. It states that “A key role for the Monitoring Officer is to be aware of the strengths and weaknesses of the Constitution adopted by the Council and to make recommendations for change...”
- 5.2 To this end a Working Group was formed including elected members who held positions of importance in relation to governance. These included the Deputy Leader of the Council, the Chair of the Audit Committee, the Chair of the Scrutiny Leadership Board and the Chair of the Standards Committee. The Deputy Monitoring Officer also supported this group.
- 5.3 The group has met on two occasions and agreed to adopt a consensual approach to the review, i.e. to only put forward updates and areas where clarity was required and in doing so to only put forward changes where these was unanimous support.
- 5.4 Appendix 10(a) contains the updated articles which are part of the constitution which sets out ‘what’ makes up the constitution and the relevant people and bodies who are involved in the advisory and decision making areas of the Council.
- 5.5 Appendix 10(b) sets out the updated Procedural Standing Orders for Council and committees. These are the ‘how’ relating to the running of the committees and the Council meetings.
- 5.6 The recommended changes in both these appendices are signified by a strike through for a proposed ~~deletion~~ and an underline for an addition. The rationale for these changes is set out in a ‘notes’ box for all the changes at various points in both appendices.
- 5.7 The Working Group has recommended that all members of Council be invited to a briefing on Monday 28th November (via Teams) for 30 minutes where the Group and the Monitoring Officer and Deputy Monitoring Officer will take members through the main changes and be able to ask questions relating to the changes.

List of Appendices:

Appendix 10(a) - Proposed amendments to the Constitution for the Articles of the Constitution

Appendix 10(b) - Procedural Standing Orders for Council and Committees.

6.0 Legal considerations:

- 6.1 Article 16 of the Council’s Constitution (Review and Revision of the Constitution) sets out the duty of the Monitoring Officer to monitor and review the operation of the

Constitution. The Council is required to approve any recommended actions which would consequently amend the Constitution.

7.0 Equalities considerations:

7.1 There are no equalities considerations.

8.0 Financial considerations:

8.1 There are no financial considerations.

9.0 Risk management considerations:

9.1 Regular review of the Constitution ensures that there are clear and transparent processes in place.

10.0 Sustainability, climate change and environmental considerations:

10.1 None

11.0 Internal/ External Consultation undertaken:

11.1 A cross party informal Working Group was formed to input into the Constitution review (see paragraph 5.2).

12.0 Background papers:

12.1 None

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Part 2 – Articles of the Constitution

Updated 21 June 2021

Article 1 – The Constitution

1. Powers of the Council

1.1 The Council will exercise all its powers and duties in accordance with the law and this Constitution.

2. Purpose of the Constitution

2.1 The purpose of the Constitution is to:

- enable the Council to provide clear leadership to the community in partnership with citizens, businesses and other organisations
- support the active involvement of citizens in the process of local authority decision-making
- help councillors represent their constituents more effectively
- enable decisions to be taken efficiently and effectively
- create a powerful and effective means of holding decision-makers to public account
- ensure that no one will review or scrutinise a decision in which they were directly involved
- ensure that those responsible for decision making are clearly identifiable to local people and that they explain the reasons for decisions
- provide a means of improving the delivery of services to the community.

3. Interpretation and review of the Constitution

3.1 Where the Constitution permits the Council to choose between different courses of action, the Council will always choose that option which it thinks is closest to the purposes stated above.

3.2 The Council will monitor and evaluate the operation of the Constitution as set out in Article 16.

Article 2 – Members of the Council

1. Composition and eligibility

- 1.1 The Council comprises 42 elected members, otherwise called councillors. Two councillors are elected by the voters of each ward in accordance with a scheme drawn up by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England and approved by the Secretary of State.
- 1.2 Only registered voters of the Borough, those living or working there or those who own land in the Borough will be eligible to hold the office of councillor.

2. Election and terms of councillors

- 2.1 The regular election of councillors will be held on the first Thursday in May every four years. The next full election is in May 2023. The terms of office of councillors will start on the fourth day after being elected and will finish on the fourth day after the date of the next regular election.

3. Roles and functions of all councillors

- 3.1 All councillors will:
 - collectively be the ultimate policy-makers and carry out a number of strategic and corporate functions
 - represent their communities and bring their views into the Council's decision-making process, i.e. become the advocates of and for their communities
 - deal with individual casework and act as advocates for constituents in resolving particular concerns or grievances
 - balance different interests identified within the ward and represent the ward as a whole
 - be involved in decision-making
 - be available to represent the Council on other bodies
 - maintain the highest standards of conduct and ethics
 - receive training and development to assist them in their role in accordance with the Member Development Plan.

4. Rights and duties

- 4.1 Councillors will have such rights of access to documents, information, land and buildings of the Council as are necessary for the proper discharge of their functions and in accordance with the law.

5. Conduct

- 5.1 Councillors will at all times observe the Code of Conduct for Members and the Protocol on Member/Officer Relations set out in Part 5 of this Constitution.

6. Allowances

- 6.1 Councillors will be entitled to receive allowances in accordance with the Members' Allowances Scheme set out in Part 6 of this Constitution.

Article 3 – Citizens and the Council

1. Voting and petitions

- 1.1 **Petition for an elected mayor:** If citizens are on the electoral roll for the area they have the right to sign a petition to request a referendum for an elected mayor form of Constitution and to vote in any such election.
- 1.2 **Ordinary petition:** These are petitions which would normally require at least 50 signatures and would usually be for a local issue. However, if the petition organiser could demonstrate that in relation to a particularly local issue of concern, that it was simply not possible to obtain 50 relevant signatures, the Petitions Officer has the discretion to validate a petition with a lower number of signatures.
- 1.3 **Petitions for debate:** For a petition to be reported to and debated at a meeting of full Council, it must contain at least 1,500 valid signatures.

2. Information

2.1 Citizens have the right to:

- attend meetings of the Council and its committees except where confidential or exempt information is likely to be disclosed and the meeting is therefore held in private
- attend meetings of the Executive when key decisions are being considered
- find out from the Forward Plan what key decisions will be taken by the Executive and when
- see reports and background papers and records of decisions
- inspect the Council's accounts and make their views known to the external auditor.
- [make a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000](#)
- [inspect the Members' Register of Interests and gifts and hospitality received available on the Council's website](#)

3. Complaints

3.1 Citizens have the right to complain to:

- the Council itself under its complaints scheme
- the [Local Government](#) Ombudsman after using the Council's own complaints scheme [\(or through a designated person, to the Housing Ombudsman in relation to social housing matters\)](#)
- the Council's Monitoring Officer about [an alleged](#) breach of the Code of Conduct for Members, [in line with the code of conduct in Part 5a of this Constitution.](#)

4. Citizens' responsibilities

4.1 Citizens must not be violent, abusing or threatening to councillors or officers and must not wilfully harm things owned by the Council, councillors or officers.

Notes:

<i>The above changes again take account of updated legislation and Council decisions.</i>

Article 4 – The full Council

1. Functions of the full Council

1.1 The Council will exercise the functions described in Section 1 of Part 3 of the Constitution.

2. Council meetings

2.1 There are four types of Council meeting:

- the annual meeting
- ordinary meetings
- the budget meeting
- extraordinary meetings.

2.2 Meetings will be conducted in accordance with the Council Procedure Rules in Part 4 of this Constitution.

~~3. Council Briefing Meetings~~

~~3.1 Council briefing meetings will usually take place monthly. They will consider issues identified in the Council Procedure Rules in Part 4 of this Constitution.~~

Notes:
<i>The above change is as a result of the proposed change in Appendix 10 (b).</i>

Article 5 – The Mayor

1. Role and function of the Mayor

~~1.1~~ The Mayor and Deputy Mayor will be elected by the Council annually. The Mayor and Deputy Mayor ~~will can~~ also undertake the roles of Chair and Vice Chair of the Council. ~~The Council may also appoint a separate Vice Chair of the Council, as well as the Deputy Mayor.~~

~~1.2~~ ~~If the Council does appoint a separate Vice Chair then the Deputy Mayor will undertake the ceremonial role and the Vice Chair, the chairing the Council meeting role, in the absence of the Mayor.~~

2. Ceremonial role

2.1 The Mayor will undertake the civic and ceremonial duties of the Council in accordance with the guidance offered in the Council’s Civic Handbook. The Deputy Mayor will support and deputise for the Mayor in this role.

3. Chairing the Council meeting role

3.1 The Mayor (or in their absence the Deputy Mayor ~~or the Vice Chair if the Council has appointed one~~) will have the following responsibilities:

- to uphold and promote the purposes of the Constitution
- to preside over meetings of the Council so that its business can be carried out efficiently and with regard to the rights of councillors and the interests of the community
- to ensure that the Council meeting is a forum for the debate of matters of concern to the local community and the place at which members who are not on the Executive are able to hold the Executive to account
- to promote public involvement in the Council’s activities.

Notes:
<i>The above change brings clarity to roles as both the Deputy Mayor and Vice Chair are in effect the same position.</i>

Article 6 – Overview and scrutiny committees

1. Duties and terms of reference

- 1.1 The Council has appointed scrutiny committees to undertake the overview and scrutiny function conferred by Section 21 of the Local Government Act 2000 and the Health Scrutiny functions. The scrutiny committees also deal with “call ins”, in accordance with the Council’s approved procedure. Their [powers and](#) duties and terms of reference are set out in Part 3 of this Constitution.

2. Proceedings of overview and scrutiny committees

- 2.1 The scrutiny committees will conduct their proceedings in accordance with the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules set out in Part 4 of this Constitution.

Article 7 – The Executive

1. Role

- 1.1 The Executive will carry out all of the local authority's functions which are not the responsibility of any other part of the local authority, whether by law or under this Constitution.

2. Form and composition

- 2.1 The Executive will consist of the Executive Leader together with not more than nine councillors appointed to the Executive by the Leader. The Councillors appointed by the Leader comprise the 'Cabinet'.

3. Leader

- 3.1 The Leader will be a councillor elected by the Council at the first annual Council meeting following the elections. The Leader will hold the office for a term of four years, or for the balance of his/ her term of office as a councillor if shorter, unless:
- he/she resigns from the office
 - he/she ceases to be a councillor
 - he/she is removed from office by resolution of the Council.

4. Deputy Leader

- 4.1 The Leader may appoint a Deputy Leader who will be a councillor and will have all the powers of the Leader in his/her absence. The Deputy Leader will hold office for the duration of their term of office as a councillor, unless:
- he/she resigns from the office
 - he/she ceases to be a councillor
 - he/she is removed from office by the Leader who must give written notice of any removal to the Head of Democratic Governance. ~~The removal will take effect two working days after receipt of the notice by the Head of Democratic Governance.~~

5. Other Executive Members

- 5.1 Other Executive Members shall hold office until:
- they resign from office
 - they are no longer councillors

- they are removed from office by the Leader who must give written notice of any removal to the Head of Democratic Governance. ~~The removal will take effect two working days after receipt of the notice by the Head of Democratic Governance.~~

6. Cabinet Assistants

- 6.1 Cabinet Assistants may be appointed by the Leader and will serve as a 'flexible resource' supporting Cabinet Members. The number of Cabinet Assistants and their areas of responsibility (if any) are to be the subject of recommendation by Cabinet Members.

7. Proceedings of the Executive

- 7.1 Proceedings of the Executive shall take place in accordance with the Executive Procedure Rules set out in Part 4 of this Constitution.

8. Responsibility for functions

- 8.1 The Council has not made provision for the allocation of Executive functions. Accordingly, the Leader may discharge any of those functions and may arrange for the discharge of any of those functions by:
- the Executive
 - another member of the Executive
 - a committee of the Executive
 - an officer of the authority.
- 8.2 Details of the arrangements made by the Leader are to be found in Section 7 of Part 3 of this Constitution.

Notes:
<i>The above changes again take account of current practice.</i>

Article 8 – Regulatory and other committees

1. Regulatory and other committees

- 1.1 The Council has appointed the committees specified in Section 2 of Part 3 of this Constitution to discharge the regulatory functions described in relation to each of those committees.

2. Licensing Committee and Panels

- 2.1 Under the Licensing Act 2003 and the Gambling Act 2005, the Licensing Committee has agreed that Licensing Panels comprising of three members drawn from the membership of that Committee, be constituted by the Head of Democratic Governance to undertake hearings in accordance with the Licensing Act 2003 and the Gambling Act 2005, consequent regulations and specified requirements of the Licensing Committee.
- 2.2 The Head of Democratic Governance shall determine the makeup of the panels (not necessarily to be politically balanced) with members as far as practically possible serving in rotation.
- 2.3 Each Panel shall select a Chairman at the beginning of each meeting.
- 2.4 An equal maximum amount of time is set by each Panel at the beginning of each different hearing, for a party to address the Panel, give any further information or call any witnesses for the hearing.

Article 9 – The Standards Committee

1. All members have to agree to follow a Code of Conduct to ensure high standards in the way they undertake their duties. The Council has therefore established a Standards Committee with specific regard to probity and high standards of ethical conduct.
2. The Standards Committee works closely with the Council's Monitoring Officer in promoting high standards of conduct amongst its members. The Committee also has a role in determining complaints that have been referred to it by the Monitoring Officer where local resolution is not deemed appropriate as well as advising the Council on the adoption, revision and operation of codes or protocols relating to member conduct.

Article 10 – Audit Committee

1. The Audit Committee is a key component of Blackpool Council's corporate governance. It provides an independent and high-level focus on the audit, assurance and reporting arrangements that underpin good governance and financial standards.
2. The purpose of the Audit Committee is to provide independent assurance to the members of the adequacy of the risk management framework and the internal control environment. It provides independent review of the Council's governance, risk management and control frameworks and oversees the financial reporting and annual governance processes. It oversees internal audit and external audit, helping to ensure efficient and effective assurance arrangements are in place.

Article 11 - The Health and Wellbeing Board

- 1.1 The Authority must in exercising any functions, have regard to its:
- joint strategic needs assessment and
 - joint health and wellbeing strategy.
- 1.2 The Council will appoint a Health and Wellbeing Board as set out in Part 3 of this Constitution to discharge the functions described.
- 1.3 By law, the minimum membership of the Health and Wellbeing Board must include:
- At least one councillor nominated by the leader
 - A representative of the local health commissioning organisation
 - The Director of Public Health
 - The Director of Children's Services
 - The Director of Adult Services
 - A representative of the local healthwatch organisation.
- 1.4 Membership may also include such other persons or representatives of such other persons as the local authority or the Health and Wellbeing Board thinks appropriate.
- 1.5 All members on the Health and Wellbeing Board shall be able to vote, unless full Council direct otherwise.

Notes:
<i>The above changes again take account of there being no Clinical Commissioning Groups anymore.</i>

Article 12 - Joint arrangements

1. Arrangements to promote well being

1.1 The Council or the Executive, in order to promote the economic, social or environmental well-being of its area, may:

- enter into arrangements or agreements with any person
- co-operate with, or facilitate or co-ordinate the activities of any person
- exercise on behalf of that person any functions of that person
- provide staff, goods, services or accommodation to any person.

2. Joint arrangements

2.1 The Council may establish joint arrangements with one or more local authorities and/or their Executives. Such arrangements will be subject to approval by the Council and will be in accordance with relevant statutory provisions.

Article 13 - Officers

1. Management structure

1.1 The authority's senior management structure is described in Part 7 of the Constitution.

2. Statutory roles

- Head of Paid Service: Chief Executive (Neil Jack)
- Monitoring Officer: Director of Governance and Partnerships (Mark Towers)
- Chief Financial Officer: Director of Resources (Steve Thompson)
- Director of Children's Services: Director of Children's Services ([Vicky Gent](#))
- Director of Adult Services: Director of Adult Services (Karen Smith)
- Director of Public Health: Director of Public Health (Dr Arif Rajpura)
- Statutory Scrutiny Officer: Scrutiny Manager (Sharon Davis)

3. Functions of the officer appointed as the Head of Paid Service

- 3.1 **Discharge of functions by the Council.** The Head of Paid Service will, as appropriate, report to the Council on the manner in which the discharge of the Council's functions is co-ordinated, the number and grades of officers required for the discharge of functions and the organisation, appointment and proper management of staff.
- 3.2 **Restrictions on functions.** The Head of Paid Service may not be the Monitoring Officer but may hold the post of Statutory Finance Officer if a qualified accountant.

4. Functions of the officer appointed as the Monitoring Officer

- 4.1 **Maintaining the Constitution.** The Monitoring Officer will maintain an up-to-date version of the Constitution and will ensure that it is widely available for consultation by members, staff and the public.
- 4.2 **Ensuring lawfulness and fairness of decision making.** After consulting with the Head of Paid Service and Chief Financial Officer, the Monitoring Officer will report to the full Council or to the Executive in relation to an Executive function if he or she considers that any proposal, decision or omission would give rise to unlawfulness or if any decision or omission has given rise to maladministration. Such a report will have the effect of stopping the proposal or decision being

implemented until the report has been considered.

- 4.3 **Supporting the Standards Committee.** The Monitoring Officer will contribute to the promotion and maintenance of high standards of conduct through provision of support to the Standards Committee.
- 4.4 **Receiving allegations of misconduct.** The Monitoring Officer will receive and consider any allegations of member misconduct.
- 4.5 **Conducting investigations.** Where he/she considers it appropriate, the Monitoring Officer will arrange for investigations to be conducted into matters of misconduct and decide on the appropriate course of action to be taken.
- 4.6 **Proper Officer for access to information.** The Monitoring Officer will ensure that Executive decisions, together with the reasons for those decisions and relevant officer reports and background papers are made publicly available as soon as possible.
- 4.7 **Advising whether Executive decisions are within the budget and policy framework.** The Monitoring Officer will advise whether decisions of the Executive are in accordance with the budget and policy framework.
- 4.8 **Providing advice.** The Monitoring Officer will provide advice on the scope of powers and authority to take decisions, maladministration, financial impropriety, probity and budget and policy framework issues to all Councillors and will support and advise councillors and officers in their respective roles.
- 4.9 **Restrictions on posts.** The Monitoring Officer cannot be the Chief Financial Officer, the Head of Paid Service or the Chief Finance Officer.

5. Functions of the officer appointed as the Chief Finance Officer

- 5.1 **Ensuring lawfulness and financial prudence of decision making.** After consulting with the Head of Paid Service and the Monitoring Officer, the Chief Finance Officer will report to the full Council or to the Executive in relation to an Executive function and the Council's external auditor if he or she considers that any proposal, decision or course of action will involve incurring unlawful expenditure, or is unlawful and is likely to cause a loss or deficiency or if the Council is about to enter an item of account unlawfully.
- 5.2 **Administration of financial affairs.** The Chief Finance Officer will have responsibility for the administration of the financial affairs of the Council.
- 5.3 **Contributing to corporate management.** The Chief Finance Officer will contribute to the corporate management of the Council, in particular through the provision of professional financial advice.
- 5.4 **Providing advice.** The Chief Finance Officer will provide advice on the scope of powers and authority to take decisions, maladministration, financial impropriety, probity and budget and policy framework issues to all Councillors and will support and advise Councillors and Officers in their respective roles.
- 5.5 **Giving financial information.** The Chief Finance Officer will provide financial information to the

media, members of the public and the community.

6. Duty to provide sufficient resources to the Monitoring Officer and Chief Finance Officer

- 6.1 The Council will provide the Monitoring Officer and Chief Finance Officer with such officers, accommodation and other resources as are in their opinion sufficient to allow their duties to be performed.

7. Functions of the officer appointed as the Director of Children's Services

- 7.1 The Director of Children's Services is appointed for the purpose of the Council's functions referred to in Section 18 of the Children Act 2004 as follows:

- Education services – the Council's functions in its capacity as a local education authority, except those excluded under Section 18(3) of the Children Act 2004 (namely functions relating to further education, higher education and adult education)
- Social Services – the Council's social services functions within the meaning of the Local Authorities Social Services Act 1970, as they relate to children and young people leaving care;
- Health Services – any health related functions exercised on behalf of an NHS body under Section 31 of the Health Act 1999, so far as they relate to children
- Inter-agency co-operation – the Council's functions in its capacity as a children's services authority under Part 2 of the Children Act 2004
- Children Act 1989 – functions conferred under Sections 23C to 24D (and not falling under sub-article (ii) above).

- 7.2 The officer has statutory advisory rights in relation to the employment of staff in schools.

8. Functions of the officer appointed as the Director of Adult Services

- 8.1 Section 6(1) of the Local Authorities Social Services Act 1970 requires the Council to appoint an officer known as the Director of Adult Services, for the purposes of their adult social services functions.
- 8.2 The Council is required to secure the provision of adequate staff for assisting him/ her in the exercise of their functions.
- 8.3 The functions for which the officer is responsible are those contained in Schedule 1 to the Local Authorities Social Services Act 1970 other than those functions for which the Director of Children's Services is responsible under Section 18 of the Children Act 2004.

9. Functions of the officer appointed as the Director of Public Health

9.1 Duties set out in the Health and Social Care 2012 which includes:

- Health improvement duties
- The exercise of any public health functions of the Secretary of State which the Secretary of State requires the local authority to exercise by regulations under section 6C of the NHS Act
- Any public health activity undertaken by the local authority under arrangements with the Secretary of State
- Local authority functions in relation to planning for, and responding to, emergencies that present a risk to public health
- The local authority role in co-operating with police, probation and prison services in relation to assessing risks of violent or sexual offenders
- Other public health functions that the Secretary of State may specify in regulations (e.g. functions in relation to making representations about the grant of a licence to use premises for the supply of alcohol).

10. Conduct

10.1 Officers will comply with the Officers' Code of Conduct and the Protocol on Member/Officer Relations set out in Part 5 of this Constitution.

11. Employment

10.1 The recruitment, selection and dismissal of officers will comply with the Officer Employment Procedure Rules set out in Part 4 of this Constitution.

Article 14 – Decision making

1. Responsibility for decision making

- 1.1 The Council will issue and keep up to date a record of who has responsibility for particular types of decisions or decisions relating to particular areas or functions. This record is set out in Part 3 of this Constitution.

2. Principles of decision making

- 2.1 All decisions of the authority will be made in accordance with the following principles:
- proportionality (i.e. the action must be proportionate to the desired outcome)
 - due consultation and the taking of professional advice from officers
 - respect for human rights
 - a presumption in favour of openness;
 - clarity of aims and desired outcomes.

3. Rules of decision making

- 3.1 Decisions will be made in accordance with any relevant Procedure Rules set out in Part 4 of this Constitution and, as appropriate, in accordance with the rules of natural justice.

Article 15 - Finance, contracts and legal matters

1. Financial management

- 1.1 The management of the Council's financial affairs will be conducted in accordance with the financial rules set out in Part 4 of this Constitution.

2. Contracts

- 2.1 Every contract made by the Council will comply with the Contracts Procedure Rules set out in Part 4 of this Constitution.

3. Authentication of documents

- 3.1 Where any document is necessary to any legal procedure or proceedings on behalf of the Council, it will be signed by the Head of Legal or other person authorised by him/her, unless any enactment otherwise authorises or requires, or the Council has given requisite authority to some other person.

4. Common Seal of the Council

- 4.1 The Common Seal of the Council will be kept in a safe place in the custody of the Head of Legal. A decision made by or on behalf of the Council will be sufficient authority for sealing any document necessary to give effect to the decision. The Common Seal will be affixed to those documents, which in the opinion of the Head of Legal, should be sealed. The affixing of the Common Seal will be attested by the Head of Legal or some other person authorised by him/her.

Article 16 - Review and revision of the Constitution

1. Duty to monitor and review the constitution

1.1 The Monitoring Officer will monitor and review the operation of the Constitution with a view to the aims and principles of the Constitution being given full effect.

2. Protocol for monitoring and review of constitution by Monitoring Officer

2.1 A key role for the Monitoring Officer is to be aware of the strengths and weaknesses of the Constitution adopted by the Council and to make recommendations for change in order better to achieve the purposes set out in Article 1. In undertaking this task the Monitoring Officer may:

- observe meetings of different parts of the member and officer structure
- undertake audit trails of sample decisions
- record and analyse issues raised with him/her by members, officers, the public and other relevant stakeholders
- compare practices in this authority with those in other comparable authorities, or national examples of best practice.

3. Changes to the Constitution

3.1 The Monitoring Officer may amend the Constitution to reflect changes in legislation or decisions made from time to time by or on behalf of the authority. Other changes to the Constitution will be approved by the full Council, after consideration of the proposals by the Leader of the Council or relevant Cabinet Member nominated by him/ her Executive.

Notes:
<i>The above change adds more flexibility to how changes to the constitution can be made.</i>

Article 17 - Suspension, interpretation and publication of the Constitution

1. Suspension of the Constitution

- 1.1 **Limit to suspension.** The Articles of this Constitution may not be suspended.
- 1.2 **Procedure to suspend.** A motion to suspend any Part 4 Procedure Rules will not be moved without notice unless at least one half of the whole number of councillors are present. The extent and duration of suspension will be proportionate to the result to be achieved, taking account of the purposes of the Constitution set out in Article 1.

2. Interpretation

- 2.1 The ruling of the Mayor as to the construction or application of this Constitution or as to any proceedings of the Council shall not be challenged at any meeting of the Council. Such interpretation will have regard to the purposes of the Constitution contained in Article 1.

3. Publication

- 3.1 The Head of Democratic Governance will:
 - ~~make the Constitution available~~ ~~give a printed copy of this Constitution~~ to each member of the authority upon delivery to him/her of that individual's declaration of acceptance of office on the member first being elected to the Council
 - ensure that copies are available for inspection at the Council's main offices and for purchase by members of the press and public on payment of a reasonable fee
 - ensure that a summary of the Constitution is made publicly available and is updated as necessary.

Notes:
<i>The above changes again take account of updated legislation and current practice</i>

Part 4a – Procedural Standing Orders for Council and Committees

Updated – 30 November 2022

Page(s)

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3. Ordinary meetings and the Budget Council Meeting ~~and-
Council Briefing Meetings~~
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6. Notice of and summons to meetings
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16. Previous decisions and motions
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19. Minutes
20. Exclusion of public
21. Members' interests
22. Members' conduct
23. Disturbance by public
24. Suspension and amendment of Council Procedural Standing Orders

1. Application of these Procedural Standing Orders

- 1.1 These Procedural Standing Orders regulate the conduct of meetings of full Council. They do not apply to meetings of the Executive/or any committee of the Executive.
- 1.2 Those Procedural Standing Orders prefixed by a # apply to meetings of committees and sub-committees of the Council with any necessary or consequential modifications.
- 1.3 For the avoidance of doubt when a Procedure Rule states that a request should be made in writing then this includes a request submitted by electronic means.

2. Annual meeting of the Council

- 2.1 In a year when there is an ordinary election of councillors, the annual meeting will take place between eight and 21 days of the retirement of the outgoing councillors. In any other year, the Annual Meeting will take place in March, April or May.
- 2.2 The Annual Meeting will:
 - (i) elect a person to preside if the Mayor and Deputy Mayor are not present
 - (ii) elect the Mayor
 - (iii) elect the Deputy Mayor
 - (iv) approve the minutes of the last meeting
 - (v) receive any announcements from the Mayor
 - (vi) elect the Leader (if this is the first annual meeting following an all out election)
 - (vii) appoint scrutiny committees and such other committees as the Council considers appropriate to deal with matters which are neither reserved to the Council nor are Executive functions (as set out in Part 3, of this Constitution)
 - (viii) decide the size and as appropriate, the terms of reference for those committees
 - (ix) decide the allocation of seats to political groups in accordance with the political balance rules
 - (x) agree the scheme of delegation or such part of it as the Constitution determines it is for the Council to agree (as set out in Part 3 of this Constitution)
 - (xi) approve a programme of ordinary meetings of the Council for the year and
 - (xii) consider any business set out in the notice convening the meeting.

3. Ordinary meetings ~~and~~ the Budget Council Meeting ~~and Council Briefing meetings~~

- 3.1 **Ordinary meetings of the Council**
 - 3.1.1 These will take place in accordance with a programme decided at the Council's Annual Meeting normally on a basis of four meetings per year although meetings will not normally be held during the pre-election/ pre-referendum period. Ordinary meetings will:

- (i) elect a person to preside if the Mayor and Deputy Mayor are not present
- (ii) approve the minutes of the last meeting
- (iii) receive any declarations of interest from Members
- (iv) receive any official announcements from the Mayor ~~(save during the period between the calling of and the holding of any election or referendum)~~
- (v) deal with any business from the last Council meeting
- (vi) receive representations and questions from individual members of the public ~~(save during the period between the calling of and the holding of any election or referendum)~~
- (vii) receive and debate petitions of at least 1,500 signatures in accordance with the Council's approved scheme
- (viii) receive and consider reports from the Leader of the Council, Cabinet Members, the Scrutiny Leadership Board Chair, the Audit Committee Chair, Council appointed representatives to the Combined Fire Authority and deal with any questions or matters arising ~~thereon~~
- (ix) consider any called-in decision referred to the Council by the scrutiny committees
- (x) consider any proposals or recommendations from the Executive, the scrutiny committees, the Audit Committee, the regulatory committees or the Health and Wellbeing Board
- (xi) consider any other business specified in the summons to the meeting
- (xii) consider Notices of Motion or other business proposed by members for inclusion on the Council agenda.

Notes:

Council meetings are not now scheduled in the pre election/ pre referendum period so the references above which are struck through are recommended to be deleted.

~~**Council Briefing meetings**—these will take place on a monthly basis for approximately one hour. The Council briefing meetings will be open to all members, representatives from the Blackpool Clinical Commissioning Group and the Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, Lancashire Constabulary and from other partner organisations as appropriate. The briefing meetings will provide the opportunity to:~~

- ~~(i) — receive presentations and hold a discussion on strategic/community wide issues~~
- ~~(ii) — consider reports or presentations from members appointed to outside bodies and partnerships and those organisations' respective officials~~
- ~~(iii) — seek the attendees' views during the early stages of drafting plans and strategies for the Council's policy framework.~~

Notes:

Council Briefings have not been held for many years, as there is a separate training programme for members. It is therefore recommended that this section be taken out.

3.2 Budget Meeting of the Council

- 3.2.1 The Council will hold annually a meeting to determine a budget and the level of Council Tax to be levied for the forthcoming financial year. The meeting can also consider any decision making reports referred to it by a committee, the Executive, Council itself, or a Statutory Chief Officer which cannot wait until the next ordinary Council meeting.

4. Extraordinary meetings

4.1 Those listed below may request the Director of Governance and Partnerships (Monitoring Officer) to call Council meetings in addition to ordinary meetings:

- (i) the Council by resolution
- (ii) the Mayor of the Council
- (iii) the Leader
- (iv) the Monitoring Officer
- (v) any five members of the Council if they have signed a requisition ~~presented to the Mayor and he/she has refused to call a meeting or has failed to call a meeting within seven days of the presentation of the requisition~~ and submitted it to the Monitoring Officer

Notes:

<i>The above change is recommended as the change indicates what would happen in practice.</i>

#5. Time and place of meetings

5.1 The time and place of meetings will be determined by the Director of Governance and Partnerships (Monitoring Officer) and notified in the summons.

#6. Notice of and summons to meetings

6.1 The Director of Governance and Partnerships (Monitoring Officer) will give public notice of the time and place of any meeting in accordance with the Access to Information Rules. At least five clear working days before a Council meeting, the Director of Governance and Partnerships (Monitoring Officer) will send a summons signed by him/her ~~by post~~ to every member of the Council ~~or leave it at their usual place of residence~~. The summons will give the date, time and place of the meeting and specify the business to be transacted, and will be accompanied by the relevant ~~such~~ reports ~~as are available~~.

Notes:

<i>The above changes again take account of updated legislation and current practice. The amended wording still allows delivery by post if necessary</i>

7. Chair of meeting

7.1 The Mayor or in his/her absence, the Deputy Mayor will chair meetings of the Council.

7.2 In the absence of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor, meetings will be chaired by the person elected by the Council to preside. An Executive Member may not be elected to preside at a meeting of the Council in the absence of the Mayor or Deputy Mayor. The person presiding at a meeting of the Council may exercise, as appropriate, any power or discharge any duty assigned by these Procedural Standing Orders to the Mayor.

#8. Quorum

8.1 Council

8.1.1 The quorum of a Council meeting shall be one-third of the whole number of members.

8.2 Committees and sub-committees

8.2.1 The quorum for committees and sub-committees shall be one-quarter of the whole number of members (which in any event shall not be less than three).

8.3 Health and Wellbeing Board

8.3.1 The quorum for the Health and Wellbeing Board shall be a quarter of the membership with at least representatives from two appointing organisations, in attendance.

8.3.2 During any meeting if the Mayor (or Chair) counts the number of members present and declares there is not a quorum present, then the meeting will adjourn immediately. Remaining business will be considered at a time and date fixed by the Mayor (or Chair). If he/she does not fix a date, the remaining business will be considered at the next ordinary meeting.

#9. Representations, ~~petitions~~ and questions by the public

9.1 ~~Subject as follows~~, Members of the public may make representations at ordinary meetings of the Council, the Planning Committee and the scrutiny committees in line with the following procedures.

9.2 With regard to Council and scrutiny committee meetings, not more than five people may speak at any one meeting and no persons may speak for longer than five minutes. ~~These meetings can also consider petitions submitted in accordance with the Council's approved scheme, but will not receive representations, petitions or questions during the period between the calling of and the holding of any election or referendum.~~

Notes:
<i>The above changes are being recommended because petitions is now a separate procedural standing order (no 10 below) and procedural standing order 3 has been updated to state that ordinary Council meetings will not normally be held in the pre election/pre referendum period, therefore the above wording is superfluous.</i>

9.3 Members of the public, other elected members, other organisation representatives and officers from the Council may be permitted to speak at meetings of the Health and Wellbeing Board, with the permission of the Chair.

9.4 Request to participate at a Council meeting

9.4.1 A person wishing to make representations or ask a member of the Executive a question at a Council meeting, must submit ~~such~~ a request in writing to the Head of Democratic Governance, for consideration.

9.4.2 Those approved to participate will be given not less than five clear working days' notice of the meeting at which their representations or questions will be received. Those submitting representations or questions will be given a response from the Leader of the

Council or relevant Cabinet Member, at the meeting.

9.5 Reason for refusing a request to participate at a Council meeting

9.5.1 An application to participate would be **refused** in the following circumstances:

- (i) If a deputation has already spoken on that issue, or it refers to a decision of Council that is not on the agenda for that meeting, within the last six months
- (ii) If it would normally be considered by the Scrutiny Committee
- (iii) If it refers to a regulatory committee decision
- (iv) If it is illegal, defamatory, scurrilous, frivolous or offensive
- (v) If it is factually inaccurate
- (vi) If the issues to be raised would be considered 'exempt' information under the Council's Access to Information Procedure Rules
- (vii) If it refers to legal proceedings in which the Council is involved or is in contemplation
- (viii) If it relates directly to the provision of a service to an individual where the use of the Council's complaints procedure would be relevant
- (ix) If the deputation has a financial or commercial interest in the issue.

9.6 Request to participate at a Planning Committee meeting

9.6.1 An applicant, agent or supporter (or representative of the supporters, if there is more than one present) and objector (or a representative of the objectors, if there is more than one present) along with ward councillors can make representations regarding a planning application to the appropriate meeting of the Planning Committee.

9.6.2 Requests to speak must be made in writing to the Head of Democratic Governance, no later than noon, one working day prior to the meeting. The following procedure will apply:

- (i) An objector will be allowed to speak for no longer than seven minutes (the Chair, in exceptional circumstances, may allow more than one speaker, where it is considered beneficial to the consideration of the application, but the total allocated time of seven minutes will be split between the number of speakers, e.g. seven speakers will receive one minute each).
- (ii) Members of the Planning Committee may then question the objector(s) for clarification or extra information.
- (iii) The applicant or agent or supporter will then be invited to address the Committee for no longer than seven minutes. If both applicant and agent/supporter apply to speak, precedence will be given to the applicant. If the applicant would like to speak and would like the agent/supporter to also speak, the same limitations regarding time limits as in (a) above will apply.
- (iv) Members of the Planning Committee may then question the applicant or agent or supporter for clarification or extra information.
- (v) Any ward councillor may be allowed to address the Committee for up to seven minutes in line with 9.6.2 above.

9.7 Request to participate at scrutiny committee meetings

- 9.7.1 A person wishing to make representations or otherwise wish to speak at one of the scrutiny committees must submit such a request in writing to the Head of Democratic Governance, for consideration.
- 9.7.2 The deadline for applications will be 5pm on the day prior to the dispatch of the agenda for the meeting at which their representations, requests or questions will be received. (The Chair, in exceptional circumstances, may allow a speaker to speak on a specific agenda item for a scrutiny committee, no later than noon, one working day prior to the meeting).
- 9.7.3 Those submitting representations, requests or questions will be given a response at the meeting from the Chair of the committee, or other person acting as Chair for the meeting.

9.8 Reason for refusing a request to participate at a scrutiny committee meeting

- 9.8.1 An application to participate would be **refused** in the following circumstances:
- (i) if it is illegal, defamatory, scurrilous, frivolous or offensive
 - (ii) If it is factually inaccurate
 - (iii) If the issues to be raised would be considered 'exempt' information under the Council's Access to Information Procedure rules
 - (iv) If it refers to legal proceedings in which the Council is involved or is in contemplation
 - (v) If it relates directly to the provision of a service to an individual where the use of the Council's complaints procedure would be relevant
 - (vi) If the deputation has a financial or commercial interest in the issue.

10. Petitions for debate at Council Meeting

- 10.1 Petitions which meet the requirements of the Council's Petitions scheme and as part of that have at least 1,500 signatures will be debated at an ordinary Council meeting. The following procedure will apply:

- (i) Petition organisers have the opportunity to present their petition and a maximum of five minutes will be allowed for that purpose.
- (ii) A maximum of 20 minutes will then be allowed for discussion of the matter by councillors. During this debate the merits or otherwise of the petition question will be debated but no motions tabled. Members are to speak once only and for a maximum of three minutes. The 20 minute time limit may be extended at the discretion of the Mayor, if considered appropriate.
- (iii) At the end of the Petition Debate, the Mayor will ask for motions on how the Council wishes to respond to the Petition and the relevant Cabinet Member will be invited to speak first on this part of the item. The motion may include:
 - a) taking the action requested in the Petition
 - b) noting the Petition, but not taking the action requested
 - c) requesting further investigation into the matter

d) deciding whether to make recommendations to the Executive where the matter falls to the Executive to make the final decision.

Members who have spoken in (ii) above may speak again in this part of the discussion although the rules of debate as set out in Procedural Standing Order 15 will apply.

(iv) The 20 minute and 10 minute time limits set out above may be extended at the discretion of the Mayor, if considered appropriate

Notes:

The recommended changes above allow an open debate on the petition question without any motions being moved. The addition of a second discussion part then allows for motions to be moved, seconded and debated.

11. Executive Member and Council appointed representatives' reports

11.1 At each ordinary meeting of the Council, the Council shall receive three Executive Member reports: one from the Leader of the Council covering the 'Corporate' Portfolio area and the other two covering the 'People' portfolio areas and the 'Place' portfolio areas. The areas of executive responsibility to go in these Executive Member reports to be determined by the Monitoring Officer following consultation with the Leader of the Council. The Executive Member presenting the report to Council to be known as the 'Lead' Executive member for that report. These reports will cover corporate, policy and strategic issues in their areas of responsibility.

11.2 On a twice a year basis, at an ordinary meeting of Council, consideration will be given to reports ~~from the Chair of the Scrutiny Leadership Board and~~ from Council appointed representatives from the Combined Fire Authority. ~~On an annual basis, the Chair of the Council's Audit Committee will also present a report to Council on the work of that Committee.~~

11.3 Each 'Lead' Executive Member or nominated Fire Authority representative, ~~the Chair of the Scrutiny Leadership Board and the Chair of Audit Committee~~ will have a maximum of three minutes to present their report to the Council. The Mayor (or other person presiding) will then ask for questions and comments on each report. A period of not more than 25 minutes shall be allowed for oral questions or comments from members (including those from other Cabinet Members) on each report, at the expiry of which the persons set out above, shall be given a period of not more than 25 minutes to answer. There is no limit on the number of instances that a member may ask questions on the Executive Reports. Any Executive Member can respond to questions or comments on an area of their responsibility within the 25 minute period.

11.4 With regard to the Executive Member reports, questions and comments should relate to any corporate, policy or strategic issue within their portfolio. Questions of a technical or purely operational nature may be disallowed by the Mayor, or the Executive Member to whom such a question is directed may decline to answer or state that a written answer will be provided.

11.5 In deciding whether a question is technical or operational in nature, as opposed

to a matter of general policy, the Mayor and members shall have regard to any guidance issued by the Monitoring Officer.

11.6 In connection with the Combined Fire Authority representative or the Chair of the Audit Committee, questions will be permitted on any area of their reports or of their responsibility.

11.7 Should a member have a disclosable pecuniary interest or a prejudicial interest in a question or comment raised by another member during the course of the debate, then in accordance with Procedural Standing Order 21, they shall leave the room whilst any discussion takes place. Whilst they are out of the room, either the relevant Executive Member or nominated Fire Authority representative, ~~Chair of the Scrutiny Leadership Board or the Chair of Audit Committee (as appropriate)~~ shall respond to that question or comment immediately and the time taken will be deducted from the overall 25 minutes allocated to answer, as referred to in Procedural Standing Order 11.3 above. After this has taken place and the member with the interest has returned to their seat then the questions and comments shall continue in accordance with Procedural Standing Order 11.3.

11.8 No supplementary questions or comments shall be permitted after the response has been given.

11.9 In the absence of a 'Lead' Executive Member nominated for that meeting, the Leader of the Council will appoint another Executive Member to deliver the report.

11.10 A response may be given as follows:

- a direct oral answer
- where the desired information is in a publication of the Council or other published work, a reference to that publication
- where the reply cannot conveniently be given orally, a written answer circulated later to the questioner.

Notes:

The reference to the reports from the Chair of the Audit Committee and the Chair of the Scrutiny Leadership Board have been taken out from this section and added to Procedural Standing Order 12 below, as these tend to be more formal reports with a decision from Council sought.

It is recommended that any further potential change as to how Executive Member reports are presented to Council be left until after the May 2023 elections.

~~Questions on notice at committees and sub-committee~~

~~11.1—Subject to Procedural Standing Order 11.2, a member of a committee or sub-committee may ask the Chair of it a question on any matter in relation to which the Council has powers or duties or which affects the Borough of Blackpool and which falls within the terms of reference of that committee or sub-committee.~~

~~11.2—A member may only ask a question under Procedural Standing Order 11.1 if either:~~

- ~~(i) —He/she has given notice in writing of the question. This must be received by the Head of Democratic Governance by no later than 5pm, at least three clear~~

- ~~working days in advance of the meeting or~~
- ~~(ii) The question relates to an urgent matter, he/she has the consent of the person to whom the question is to be put and a copy of the question is given to the Head of Democratic Governance by 9.30 am on the day of the meeting.~~

~~11.3 An answer may take the form of~~

- ~~• a direct oral answer~~
- ~~• where the desired information is in a publication of the Council or other published work, a reference to that publication~~
- ~~• where the reply cannot conveniently be given orally, a written answer circulated later to the questioner.~~

~~11.4 A member who has asked a question under Procedural Standing Order 11.2 may also put one supplementary question, without notice, to any person who has given an oral answer to his/her original question provided that the supplementary question arises directly out of the reply to the original question.~~

Notes:

It is recommended that this Procedural Standing Order be removed as it is adequately covered by other practices. Members can request to speak at the Executive and at Committees and can ask for issues to be considered on scrutiny workplan items

12. Reports from the Chair of Audit Committee and Chair of Scrutiny Leadership Board

12.1 On a twice yearly basis, ~~the Chair of the Scrutiny Leadership Board consideration will also be given to present a report to Council on the work of that committee. from the Chair of the Scrutiny Leadership Board.~~

12.2 On ~~an annual~~ a **twice yearly** basis, the Chair of the Council's Audit Committee will also present a report to Council on the work of that Committee.

Notes:

Separate Procedural Standing Order recommended and also to make the report from the Chair of the Audit Committee a twice yearly report because of the significance of the Audit Committee.

13. Motions on notice

13.1 Notice

13.2 Except for motions which can be moved without notice under Procedural Standing Order 14, written notice of every motion, signed by the member, must be delivered to the Director of Governance and Partnerships (Monitoring Officer) not later than 5.00 pm on the day preceding the day for summoning the Council. The Mayor or, in his/her absence, the Deputy Mayor, on the advice of the Director of Governance and Partnerships (Monitoring Officer), may exclude from the agenda any notice of motion which may be out of order, or may make such clerical corrections therein to bring it into the due form.

13.3 Motion set out in agenda

13.4 Motions for which notice has been given will be listed on the agenda in the order in which notice was received, unless the member giving notice states, in writing, that they propose to move it to a later meeting or withdraw it.

13.5 Absence of Proposer of Motion

13.6 When a motion of which notice has been given under Procedural Standing Order 13.1 is reached on the Council agenda and the proposer in whose name the motion stands is absent, such motion shall lapse and may only be revived by a fresh notice, unless such proposer shall have given authority in writing of his/her consent to the motion being taken up by some other Member of the Council, or it contains business which, by law, the Council must transact.

13.7 Scope

13.8 Motions must be about matters for which the Council has a responsibility or which affect the Borough.

14. Motions without notice

14.1 The following motions may be moved without notice:

- (i) to appoint a Chair of the meeting at which the motion is moved
- (ii) in relation to the accuracy of the minutes
- (iii) to change the order of business in the agenda
- (iv) to refer something to an appropriate body or individual
- (v) to appoint a Committee or member arising from an item on the summons for the meeting
- (vi) to receive reports or adoption of recommendations of committees or officers and any resolutions following from them
- (vii) to withdraw a motion
- (viii) to amend a motion
- (ix) to proceed to the next business
- (x) that the question be now put
- (xi) to adjourn a debate
- (xii) to adjourn a meeting
- (xiii) to extend the time limit for speeches
- (xiv) to suspend a particular Council Procedural Standing Order
- (xv) to exclude the public and press in accordance with the Access to Information Rules
- (xvi) to not hear further a member named under Procedural Standing Order 22.3 or to exclude them from the meeting under Procedural Standing Order 22.4 and
- (xvii) to give the consent of the Council where its consent is required by this Constitution.

15. Rules of debate

#15.1 No speeches until motion seconded

15.1.1 No speeches may be made after the mover has moved a proposal and explained the

purpose of it until the motion has been seconded.

#15.2 Right to require motion in writing

15.2.1 Unless notice of the motion has already been given, the Chair may require it to be written down and handed to him/her before it is discussed.

15.3 Seconders' speech

15.3.1 When seconding a motion or amendment, a member may reserve their speech until later in the debate but prior to the right of reply.

15.4 Content and timing of speeches

15.4.1 Speeches must be directed to the question under discussion or to a personal explanation or point of order. ~~Without leave of the Council~~ No speech shall occupy more than three minutes except that the opening speech of the member moving a motion or amendment (other than a procedural motion under Procedural Standing Order 14.10) shall not occupy more than five minutes.

15.4.2 Any speeches relating to matters set out below may, at the discretion of the Mayor have no set time allocated to them

- (i) Mayor's announcements
- (ii) Civic addresses, including the appointment of the Mayor and Honorary Aldermen
- (iii) Award of honours
- (iv) Resolutions of condolence
- (v) Speeches at Budget Council from Group Leaders in relation to the setting of the Council Tax.

Notes:
<i>The above addition has become custom and practice over many years and it is recommended that these now form part of the constitution.</i>

15.5 When a member may speak again

15.5.1 A member who has spoken on a motion may not speak again whilst it is the subject of debate, except:

- (vi) to speak once on an amendment moved by another member
- (vii) to move a further amendment if the motion has been amended since he/she last spoke
- (viii) if his/her first speech was on an amendment moved by another member, to speak on the main issue (whether or not the amendment on which he/she spoke was carried)
- (ix) in exercise of a right of reply
- (x) on a point of order
- (xi) by way of personal explanation.

#15.6 Amendments to motions

15.6.1 An amendment to a motion must be relevant to the motion and will either be:

- (i) to refer the matter to an appropriate body or individual for consideration or reconsideration
- (ii) to leave out words
- (iii) to leave out words and insert or add others
- (iv) to insert or add words.

as long as the effect of (ii) to (iv) is not to negate the motion and does not introduce a new proposal into it.

15.6.2 Only one amendment may be moved and discussed at any one time. No further amendment may be moved until the amendment under discussion has been disposed of.

15.6.3 If an amendment is not carried, other amendments to the original motion may be moved.

15.6.4 If an amendment is carried, the motion as amended takes the place of the original motion. This becomes the substantive motion to which any further amendments are moved.

15.6.5 After an amendment has been carried, the Mayor (or Chair) will read out the amended motion before accepting any further amendments, or if there are none, put it to the vote.

15.7 Alteration of motion

15.7.1 A member may alter a motion of which he/she has given notice with the consent of the meeting. The meeting's consent will be signified without discussion.

15.7.2 A member may alter a motion which he/she has moved without notice with the consent of both the meeting and the seconder. The meeting's consent will be signified without discussion.

15.7.3 Only alterations which could be made as an amendment may be made.

#15.8 Withdrawal of motion or amendment

15.8.1 A motion or amendment which has been moved and seconded shall not be withdrawn without the meeting's consent.

15.9 Right of reply

15.9.1 The mover of a motion has a right of reply at the end of the debate on the motion, immediately before it is put to the vote.

15.9.2 If an amendment is moved, the mover of the original motion has the right of reply at the close of the debate on the amendment, but may not otherwise speak on it.

15.9.3 The mover of the amendment has no the right of reply to the debate on his or her

amendment.

15.9.4 If an amendment is agreed and it becomes a substantive motion then the mover of the amendment has the right of reply on the substantive motion.

15.9.5 If an amendment is lost and the debate returns to the original motion then the mover of the original motion has the right of reply on the original motion

Notes:

<i>Two additional references to add more clarity</i>
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15.10 Motions which may be moved during debate

15.10.1 When a motion is under debate, no other motion may be moved except the following procedural motions:

- (i) to withdraw a motion
- (ii) to amend a motion
- (iii) to proceed to the next business
- (iv) that the question be now put
- (v) to adjourn a debate
- (vi) to adjourn a meeting
- (vii) to extend the time limit for speeches
- (viii) to exclude the public and press in accordance with the Access to Information Rules
- (ix) to not hear further a member named under Procedural Standing Order 22.3 or to exclude them from the meeting under Procedural Standing Order 22.4.

15.11 Closure motions

15.11.1 A member may move, without comment, the following motions at the end of a speech of another member:

- (i) to proceed to the next business
- (ii) that the question be now put
- (iii) to adjourn a debate
- (iv) to adjourn a meeting.

15.11.2 If a motion to proceed to next business is seconded and the Mayor thinks the item has been sufficiently discussed, he/she will give the mover of the original motion a right of reply and then put the procedural motion to the vote.

15.11.3 If a motion that the question be now put is seconded and the Mayor thinks the item has been sufficiently discussed, he/she will put the procedural motion to the vote. If it is passed he/she will give the mover of the original motion a right of reply before putting his/her motion to the vote.

15.11.4 If a motion to adjourn the debate or to adjourn the meeting is seconded and the Mayor thinks the item has not been sufficiently discussed and cannot reasonably be so discussed on that occasion, he/she will put the procedural motion to the vote without

giving the mover of the original motion the right of reply.

15.12 Point of order

15.12.1 A member may raise a point of order at any time. The Mayor will hear it immediately. A point of order may only relate to an alleged breach of these Council Procedural Standing Orders or the law. The member must indicate the Procedural Standing Order or law and the way in which he/she considers it has been broken. The ruling of the Mayor on the matter will be final.

15.13 Personal explanation

15.13.1 A member may make a personal explanation at any time. A personal explanation may only relate to some material part of an earlier speech by the member which may appear to have been misunderstood in the present debate. The ruling of the Mayor (or Chair) on the admissibility of a personal explanation will be final.

15.14 Waiving rules of debate

15.14.1 Following a majority vote, the Council may waive its rules of procedure for the duration of the meeting in relation to length of speeches, speaking more than once, and rights of reply; ~~in respect of overview and scrutiny reports, reports containing recommendations from the Executive and such other classes of reports as the scrutiny committees shall recommend.~~

Notes:
<i>Considered that it should not be restricted to just these instances. Council receives reports from other committees.</i>

~~State of Blackpool Debate~~

~~Calling of debate~~

~~15.1.1 The Leader of the Council will call a State of Blackpool debate annually on a date and in a form to be agreed with the Mayor.~~

~~15.2 Form of debate~~

~~15.2.1 The Leader of the Council will decide the form of the debate with the aim of enabling the widest possible public involvement and publicity.~~

~~15.3 Chairing of debate~~

~~15.3.1 The debate will be chaired by the Mayor.~~

~~15.4 Results of the debate~~

~~15.4.1 The results of the debate will be:~~

- ~~(i) disseminated as widely as possible within the community and to agencies and organisations in the area and~~

- (ii) ~~considered by the Leader of the Council in proposing the budget and policy framework to the Council for the coming year.~~

Notes:

<i>This process has only been used on one occasion and it recommended that it be deleted.</i>

16. Previous decisions and motions

#16.1 Motion to rescind a previous decision

16.1.1 A motion or amendment to rescind a decision made at a meeting of the Council (or a Committee or Sub-Committee) within the past three months cannot be moved.

#16.2 Motion similar to one previously rejected

16.2.1 A motion or amendment in similar terms to one that has been rejected at a meeting of the Council (or a committee or sub-committee) in the past three months cannot be moved unless the meeting decides otherwise on the grounds of altered circumstances or other good reasons.

17. Voting

#17.1 Unless this Constitution provides otherwise, any matter will be decided by a simple majority of those members voting.

17.2 For Council meetings, members must be present in the room sitting in the seats assigned to them in accordance with Procedural Standing Order 18.1, at the time the question was put.

#17.3 Mayor's (or Chair's) casting vote

17.3.1 If there are equal numbers of votes for and against, the Mayor (or Chair) will have a second or casting vote. There will be no restriction on how the right to a casting vote is exercised.

#17.4 Show of hands

17.4.1 Unless a recorded vote is demanded under Procedural Standing Order 17.5, the Mayor (or Chair) will take the vote by show of hands or, if there is no dissent, by the affirmation of the meeting.

17.5 Recorded vote

17.5.1 If five members present (at a full Council meeting only) expressly request it, the names of those voting for and against the motion or amendment or abstaining from voting will be taken down in writing and entered into the minutes. The names of members shall be called and each member present shall respond 'yes', 'no' or 'abstain'.

#17.6 Right to require individual vote to be recorded

17.6.1 Where immediately after the vote is taken and any member so requires, there shall be

recorded in the minutes of the Council (or committee or sub-committee) whether the member cast his/her vote for the question or against the question or whether he/she abstained from voting.

#17.7 Recording of motions

17.7.1 All motions moved, seconded and voted upon, shall be recorded in the minutes of proceedings, together with the decisions made.

#17.8 Voting on appointments

17.8.1 If there are more than two people nominated for any position to be filled and there is not a clear majority of votes in favour of one person, then the name of the person with the least number of votes will be taken off the list and a new vote taken. The process will continue until there is a majority of votes for one person.

18. Seating in the Council Chamber

18.1 Members of the Council

18.1.1 Members shall be seated in the Council Chamber in political groups.

18.1.2 The Director of Governance and Partnerships (Monitoring Officer), after consultation with the political group Leaders, shall be responsible for the allocation of seats to political groups and, should there be any independent members, the allocation of seats to independent members.

18.1.3 The Leaders of political groups, having been notified of the seats allocated to their group, shall inform the Director of Governance and Partnerships (Monitoring Officer) of the allocation of individual seats to the remaining members of their groups.

18.2 Members of the Press and public

18.2.1 Members of the press shall only be seated ~~in the rear of the Council Chamber~~ in the seats allocated to them.

18.2.2 Members of the public shall only be seated in the balcony area of the Council Chamber.

18.2.3 The Director of Governance and Partnerships (Monitoring Officer) shall be authorised to allow exceptions to these rules when there are disabled members of the public present, or there are too many members of the public to be accommodated in the public gallery.

Notes:
<i>Members of the press do usually sit in the rear of the Council Chamber but it seems unnecessary to restrict it.</i>

19. Minutes

#19.1 Signing the minutes

19.1.1 The Mayor (or Chair) will sign the minutes of the proceedings at the next suitable meeting and will move that the minutes of the previous meeting be signed as a correct record. Only the accuracy of the minutes may be discussed at that time.

#19.2 No requirement to sign minutes of previous meeting at extraordinary meeting

19.2.1 Where in relation to any meeting, the next meeting for the purpose of signing the minutes is a meeting called under paragraph 3 of Schedule 12 to the Local Government Act 1972 (an Extraordinary Meeting), then the next following meeting (being a meeting called otherwise than under that paragraph) will be treated as a suitable meeting for the purposes of paragraph 41(1) and (2) of Schedule 12 relating to signing of minutes.

#20. Exclusion of public

20.1 Members of the public and press may only be excluded either in accordance with the Access to Information Rules in Part 4 of this Constitution or Procedural Standing Order 23 (Disturbance by Public).

#21. Members' Interests

21.1 If a member has a disclosable pecuniary interest or a prejudicial interest as defined in paragraph 10 of the Code of Conduct for Members ~~as defined in paragraph 9 of the Code~~ in any matter to be considered, or being considered at the meeting, then the Member should declare that interest to the meeting and should leave the room whilst any discussion or vote takes place.

21.2 If a dispensation has been granted to a Member in relation to a disclosable pecuniary interest the, subject to the terms of the dispensation, the Member may be relieved from the above restrictions but must declare the interest and the dispensation to the meeting.

Notes:

<i>Updated numbering to reflect the new code of conduct.</i>
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22. Members' conduct

22.1 Standing to speak

22.1.1 When a member speaks at full Council, he/she must stand and address the meeting through the Mayor. If more than one member stands, the Mayor will ask one to speak and the others must sit. Other members must remain seated whilst a member is speaking unless they wish to make a point of order or offer a personal explanation.

22.2 Mayor standing

22.2.1 When the Mayor stands during a debate, any member speaking at the time must stop and sit down. The meeting must be silent.

22.3 Member not to be heard further

22.3.1 If a member persistently disregards the ruling of the Mayor by behaving

improperly or offensively or deliberately obstructs business, the Mayor may move that the member be not heard further. If seconded, the motion will be voted on without discussion.

22.4 Member to leave the meeting

22.4.1 If the member continues to behave improperly after such a motion is carried, the Mayor may move that either the member leaves the meeting or that the meeting is adjourned for a specified period. If seconded, the motion will be voted on without discussion.

#22.5 General disturbance

22.5.1 If there is a general disturbance making orderly business impossible, the Mayor (or Chair) may adjourn the meeting for as long as he/she thinks necessary.

23. Disturbance by public

#23.1 Removal of member of the public

23.1.1 If a member of the public interrupts proceedings, the Mayor (or Chair) will warn the person concerned. If they continue to interrupt, the Mayor (or Chair) will order their removal from the meeting room.

#23.2 Clearance of part of meeting room

23.2.1 If there is a general disturbance in any part of the meeting room open to the public, the Mayor (or Chair) may call for that part to be cleared.

24. Suspension and amendment of Council Procedural Standing Orders

24.1 Suspension

24.1.1 All of these Council Procedural Standing Orders, except Procedural Standing Orders 17.5 and 19.2, may be suspended by motion on notice or, without notice, if at least one half of the whole number of members of the Council are present. Suspension can only be for the duration of the meeting.

24.2 Amendment

24.2.1 Any motion to add to, vary or revoke these Council Procedural Standing Orders will, when proposed and seconded, stand adjourned without discussion to the next ordinary meeting of the Council ([with the exception of a written report from the Monitoring Officer proposing changes to the Constitution](#))

Notes:
<i>Proposed change above to add clarity.</i>