

# Overview and Scrutiny Scoping Document

<b>Title of review:</b>	<b>Democratic participation in voting</b>
<b>Date scope agreed by Overview and Scrutiny Committee:</b>	24 June 2022 <i>(subject to approval)</i> .
<b>Members:</b>	<p>All non-Executive members of the Council have been offered the opportunity to participate in the Task and Finish Group.</p> <p>Members confirmed to date:</p> <p>Cllr Carni McCarron-Holmes  Cllr Sally Lansbury  Cllr Alan Smith  Cllr Michael Heaslip  Cllr Peter Kendall</p>
<b>Chair:</b>	To be determined (OSC member)
<p><b>Reasons for and purpose of review:</b>  (key issues and/or reason for doing the review)</p>	<p>Elections took place across Allerdale in May 2023 for elections to the new Cumberland Council.</p> <p>Allerdale Councillors were involved in these elections both as candidates for the new authority and as sitting Councillors for Allerdale Borough Council.</p> <p>Councillors are keen to support improvements and use their recent experience in the process with the aim of maximising democratic participation from all residents.</p> <p>The statutory responsibility for reviewing UK Parliamentary polling districts and places rests with each relevant local authority in Great Britain for so much of any constituency as is situated in its area. In Allerdale, this responsibility rests with full council.</p> <p>Councillors have expressed the desire to ensure effective working at community / parish level. The abolition of District Councils and the creation of Cumberland Council may present a widening of the gap between each community and the new Council.</p> <p>This Task and Finish Group will give an opportunity to look at this issue and understand the role of</p>

	Community Governance reviews and how they relate to arrangements for organising effective and efficient Parish and Town Councils under Section 100 of the Local Government and Public
<b>Aims and objectives of the review:</b>	<p>The review is intended to focus on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Examine the process of identifying the location of polling stations, consultation processes, requirements for the size and number of polling districts and the timetable for review</li> <li>• Community Governance Reviews</li> </ul> <p>The intention is that the review will identify recommendations that can either be implemented by Allerdale Borough Council in the short term or carried forward as recommendations for the new unitary authority to consider.</p>
<b>Links to Council Strategy:</b>	<p>The review is about the fundamental organisation of democratic elections. It supports the legitimacy of elections and the direct engagement of residents in the running of municipal and national government.</p> <p>Well run elections underpin all of the council strategies by providing the elected councillors who decide the Councils priorities and long term strategy.</p> <p>The following priority theme set out in the Council Strategy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Resilient Communities</li> </ul> <p>This sets out the Councils commitment to actively engage with our communities.</p>
<b>Potential barriers/risks/issues:</b>	Allerdale Borough Council will be replaced by Cumberland Council on 1 April 2023. This means that there will be limited opportunity for Allerdale BC to implement any recommendations from this review, but as stated above the review recommendations would stand as a reference for the new unitary authority.
<b>Timescales for review:</b> (including indicative milestones) <b>Committee meeting:</b> <b>Executive/Council meeting:</b>	December - February

<p><b>Methodology/approach:</b> (what types of enquiry will be used to gather evidence and why)</p>	<p>At their meeting on 24 June 2022 OSC members were supportive of the establishment of a task and finish group to consider this review topic.</p> <p>The proposed approach is that the TFG use the following methods to gather evidence:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information and progress reports on activity to support young people and in particular children Looked After and care leavers by Allerdale Borough Council;</li> <li>• Information on best practice and similar Overview and Scrutiny activity in other councils;</li> <li>• Input from local members.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Possible witnesses/participants:</b> (for written and oral evidence)</p> <p>- subject to review as evidence becomes available</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Elected members (Councillors) from Allerdale Borough Council.</li> <li>• Officers of Allerdale Borough Council</li> <li>• Members and Officers of other local authorities.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Possible sources of documentary information:</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Legislation</li> <li>• Guidance issued by The Election Commission for the UK</li> <li>• Reports and materials from other local authorities and organisations such as the Local Government Association and OSC reports from other councils on similar issues</li> </ul>
<p><b>Potential site visits:</b></p>	<p>To be determined by the TFG.</p>
<p><b>Officer support:</b> (including roles)</p>	<p>Scrutiny support for TFG activity will be provided by the Strategy, Policy and Performance team</p>
<p><b>Resource requirements:</b> (Budget)</p>	<p>No additional budget resource identified – any expenses can be met from existing budgets.</p>
<p><b>Publicity requirements (if applicable):</b></p>	<p>Not at the scoping stage.</p>