



## Statutory Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places

### SUMMARY

- 1.1 A number of comments have been received from stakeholders since the publication on 23 September 2011 of my proposals for polling district and polling places. Details of these comments together with my comments on them are contained in Appendices 2 & 3 respectively.
- 1.2 Taking account of comments made during the second stage of this review process, the revised proposals for polling district and polling place electorate numbers are attached at Appendix 4. Revised ward maps as a result of the proposals are attached at Appendix 5.
- 1.3 Final recommendations for polling district boundaries and polling places are to be put to Full Council on 23 November 2011 for approval.

### RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 To agree the Acting Returning Officer's proposals for new polling arrangements in the City for Parliamentary Elections as outlined in Appendices 4 and 5.
- 2.2 To recommend that Full Council approve the final proposals agreed by this committee at its meeting on 23 November 2011.

### REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 A full review of all polling districts and polling places has taken place. The consultation process has resulted in a number of comments regarding the initial proposals. These have been responded to by the Acting Returning Officer and are outlined in the appendices attached to this report.

### SUPPORTING INFORMATION

#### Background

- 4.1 The Council has a statutory duty to review all its polling districts and places every four years. The deadline for completion of the current review is 31 December 2011.

- 4.2 To comply with guidance from the Electoral Commission we are required to ensure that we have no polling venues with more than 2,500 electors. This will be monitored by the Electoral Commission through its Returning Officer performance standards.

### **The Derby Review**

- 4.3 At its meeting on 13 July 2011 Full Council received a report on the proposed review process and agreed the following timetable:

❖ Publication of notice and consultation document	Friday 22 July 2011
❖ Closing date for representations (first stage)	Friday 9 Sept 2011
❖ Publication of representations from Returning Officer	Friday 23 Sept 2011
❖ Final date for comments on the representations from the Returning Officer (second stage)	Friday 28 Oct 2011
❖ Full Council approves final scheme	Weds 23 Nov 2011
❖ 2012 Electoral Register published in accordance with the new scheme	Thurs 1 Dec 2011

- 4.4 Full Council also agreed that the Governance Committee consider my draft proposals prior to submission of a report to Full Council on 23 November 2011 seeking final approval for recommendations away from the review.

- 4.5 The consultation on the first stage of the review from 22 July to 9 Sept 2011 consisted of consultation with key stakeholders as outlined below.

- Ward councillors
- MPs and MEPs
- local political parties
- Derbyshire Police
- Disability groups
- Neighbourhood Forums

Documents were also published through Your City Your Say and on the council's website. Copies of the review and ward maps were also made available within each Parliamentary Constituency at Allestree Library, Chaddesden Library and at Roman House Reception.

- 4.6 On 23 September 2011 I published my initial representations regarding polling districts and polling places. On 18 October 2011, I published representations from stakeholders received during the period 23 September to 4 October 2011 and my response to them. These are included at Appendix 2. The review was open for further comments until 28 October 2011. These further representations and comments are included at Appendix 3.
- 4.7 This report is primarily concerned with the comments received during this second stage of the review process and my response to them

## Next Steps

- 4.8 Following consideration by this Committee the matter will go to Full Council for final approval on 23 November.
- 4.9 Final proposals once agreed at Full Council will be published on the Council's website and be available for inspection within each Parliamentary Constituency at Allestree Library, Chaddesden Library and Roman House Reception.
- 4.10 On 1 December the Electoral Register will then be published in accordance with the approved scheme.

## OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 5.1 All options considered in relation to redrawing of polling districts and proposals for polling stations are contained in appendices 2, 3, 4 and 5.

**This report has been approved by the following officers:**

<b>Legal officer</b>	Stuart Leslie
<b>Financial officer</b>	N/A
<b>Human Resources officer</b>	N/A
<b>Service Director(s)</b>	Stuart Leslie
<b>Other(s)</b>	N/A

<b>For more information contact:</b> <b>Background papers:</b>    <b>List of appendices:</b>	<p>Name Mick Styne 01332 287280 e-mail <a href="mailto:mick.styne@derby.gov.uk">mick.styne@derby.gov.uk</a></p> <p>Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places Consultation Document published on 22 July 2011 <a href="http://www.derby.gov.uk/NR/rdonlyres/18D4E8C7-8735-4850-8E53-23A13D439302/0/ConsultationDocumentforwebsite.pdf">http://www.derby.gov.uk/NR/rdonlyres/18D4E8C7-8735-4850-8E53-23A13D439302/0/ConsultationDocumentforwebsite.pdf</a></p> <p>Returning Officer's Representations published on 23 September 2011 <a href="http://www.derby.gov.uk/NR/rdonlyres/E22356CF-9D6C-4F10-8AF4-5394F342F7D5/0/ReturningOfficersRepresentations.pdf">http://www.derby.gov.uk/NR/rdonlyres/E22356CF-9D6C-4F10-8AF4-5394F342F7D5/0/ReturningOfficersRepresentations.pdf</a></p> <p>Appendix 1 – Implications</p> <p>Appendix 2 - Response of the Returning Officer to comments received up to and including 3 October 2011 <a href="http://www.derby.gov.uk/NR/rdonlyres/01A9F3AE-64E1-456A-B675-5D733044E91E/0/ReviewofPollingDistrictsExtraInfo_v2.pdf">http://www.derby.gov.uk/NR/rdonlyres/01A9F3AE-64E1-456A-B675-5D733044E91E/0/ReviewofPollingDistrictsExtraInfo_v2.pdf</a></p> <p>Appendix 3 - Response of the Returning Officer to comments received between 4 and 28 October 2011</p> <p>Appendix 4 - Details of proposed polling stations and electorate figures following conclusion of the review consultation period on 28 October 2011</p> <p>Appendix 5 – Ward Maps current and proposed polling districts <a href="http://www.derby.gov.uk/CouncilGovernmentDemocracy/Elections/Polling+Review.htm">http://www.derby.gov.uk/CouncilGovernmentDemocracy/Elections/Polling+Review.htm</a></p>
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<b>IMPLICATIONS</b>
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**Financial and Value for Money**

- 1.1 The number of polling stations as a result of the review and to enable compliance with the Electoral Commission's performance standards will increase from 80 to 89. As a result the increase in anticipated costs for a Local Election is estimated to be between £3 and £5k. However, as the Council must seek to ensure that all electors have such reasonable facilities for voting as are practicable in the circumstances, and have regard to the needs of electors who are disabled, any additional costs incurred will be contained within existing budgets.

**Legal**

- 2.1 Section 16 of the Electoral Administration Act 2006 amended the Representation of the People Act 1983, introducing a duty on all local authorities in Great Britain to review their UK Parliamentary polling districts and polling places at least once every four years. The practicalities of how the reviews must be conducted are set out in The Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places (Parliamentary Elections) Regulations 2006.

**Personnel**

- 3.1 No personnel implications are identified directly by this report.

**Equalities Impact**

- 4.1 All proposals for new polling venues have been considered to ensure that, as far as is possible, polling places are accessible for all electors.

**Health and Safety**

- 5.1 All polling venues to be used as a result of the proposals have been assessed and meet Health and Safety requirements

**Environmental Sustainability**

- 6.1 Polling districts have been designed to ensure reasonable accessibility for voters in each polling district and to minimise, where possible, any adverse impacts on travel to these venues.

## **Asset Management**

- 7.1 In terms of charges for buildings owned by the council, including schools, The Representation of the People Act 1983 Schedule 1 – Parliamentary Election Rules state that The Returning Officer may use, free of charge, for the purpose of taking the poll
- a room in a school to which this rule applies;
  - a room, the expense of maintaining which is payable out of any rate.

As a number of polling stations operate in facilities owned or leased by the council. any changes to the ownership and status of the council owned venues contained within this report should be subject to consultation with the Service Director for Legal and Democratic Services

## **Risk Management**

- 8.1 None directly resulting from this report.

## **Corporate objectives and priorities for change**

- 9.1 The review process contributes to the following corporate priorities, enabling stronger communities and providing good quality services that meet local needs