



The Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places (Parliamentary Elections) Regulations 2006

SUMMARY

- 1.1 The Council is required under The Electoral Administration Act 2006 to review all of its polling districts and polling places every four years. The council's first review was carried out during the Autumn of 2007. The council is required to publish the recommendations of its current review before the end of December 2011.
- 1.2 The main purpose of the review is to make sure that each polling district and polling place offers 'reasonable facilities for voting for all of its electors as far as is reasonably practical' under the terms of the 2006 Act.

RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 To approve the publication of a statutory notice on Friday 22 July 2011 indicating the commencement of the 2011 review of polling districts and polling places.
- 2.2 To authorise the Director of Legal and Democratic Services to carry out the statutory review in accordance with the proposals and timescales set out in this report.
- 2.3 To delegate to the Governance Committee agreement of draft proposals prior to the submission of the final report and recommendations to Full Council on 23 November 2011.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 The Council has a duty under The Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places (Parliamentary Elections) Regulations 2006 to keep the designation of polling districts and polling places in its area under review on a four yearly basis. Legislation requires Full Council to approve the commencement of the review and also approve its final recommendations.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 4.1 The formal consultation document is attached at Appendix 2 and gives details of the review process, current polling districts, places and venues together with the polling place electorate for each polling district.
- 4.2 The formal notice of the commencement of the review is included at Appendix 3 and will also be published on the council's website, a local newspaper and at Roman House, Friar Gate Derby DE1 1XB.
- 4.3 The Electoral Administration Act, 2006 inserted a Schedule A1 into the Representation of the People Act 1983 (RPA) which sets out how a review is to be conducted. The council as the relevant authority must comply with the following requirements:
- publish a notice of the holding of a review
 - consult the returning officer for every parliamentary constituency which is wholly or partly in its area
 - every returning officer must make representations to the authority
 - representations must include information as to the location of polling stations, existing or proposed, within polling places, existing or proposed.
 - the representations must be published in such a manner as is prescribed
 - representations must be sought from people it thinks to have expertise in relation to access to premises or facilities for people who have different forms of disability
 - such persons must have an opportunity to make representations and to comment on the returning officers representations
 - any elector in a constituency situated in whole or in part in the authority's areas may make representations
 - representations may include proposals for specified alternative polling places
 - on completion of the review the Council must give reasons for its decisions and publish such other information as prescribed.
- 4.4 The Act requires an (Acting) Returning Officer to make representations to the Authority on its proposed scheme. As the review is to be based upon the existing parliamentary constituencies and their boundaries, this means that for City of Derby the (Acting) Returning Officer for Derby North, Derby South and the city wards of the Mid Derbyshire Parliamentary Constituencies must be consulted.
- 4.5 It is proposed that a Notice of the Review be published on Friday 22 July 2011 with copies of the review document available on request and available on the Council's website. As we have reviewed our polling places annually it is proposed that the scheme used in the 5 May 2011 Local Elections and Alternative Vote Referendum be used as the starting position for the review
- 4.6 Copies of the notice and supporting documentation will be sent to all stakeholders including Councillors, party agents and the council's disability forum. It is proposed that the closing date for representations will be Friday 9 September 2011. It is intended that all representations received will be published on the Council's website to allow interested parties to comment on them.

4.7 It is proposed that the representations of the (Acting) Returning Officer will be published on Friday 23 September 2011 with a further five weeks given to allow interested parties to comment on them until Friday 28 October 2011. It is the intention that the final recommendations will be considered by the Governance Committee prior to the report being put to Full Council for final approval on Wednesday 23 November 2011.

4.8 The review timetable is summarised below:

Publication of notice and consultation document	Friday 22 July 2011
Closing date for representations	Friday 9 September 2011
Publication of representations from Returning Officer	Friday 23 September 2011
Final date for comments on the representations from the Returning Officer	Friday 28 October 2011
Full Council approves final scheme	Wednesday 23 November 2011
2012 Electoral Register published in accordance with the new scheme.	Thursday 1 December 2011

4.9 The legislation requires that all polling places and districts must be reviewed again within the next four years. However, the council may wish to make alterations to polling districts between reviews. In such cases the Electoral Registration Officer will be required to publish a notice fourteen days before the publication of the revised version of the electoral register in a local newspaper, at its administrative building, currently Roman House, and on the council's website.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

5.1 None applicable

This report has been approved by the following officers:

Legal officer	Stuart Leslie
Financial officer	Martyn Marples
Human Resources officer	Jon Redfern
Service Director(s)	Stuart Leslie
Other(s)	Philip O'Brien, Head of Democratic Services

For more information contact: Background papers: List of appendices:	Name 01332 287280 e-mail mick.styne@derby.gov.uk None Appendix 1 - Implications Appendix 2 - Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places Consultation Document Appendix 3 - Copy of Notice of Review
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IMPLICATIONS

Financial and Value for Money

- 1.1 None directly, however, additional costs or savings may be identified during the review as a result of any specific recommendations contained in the final report.

Legal

- 2.1 Section 16 of the Electoral Administration Act 2006 amended the Representation of the People Act 1983. It requires that relevant authorities must carry out periodic reviews of polling places and polling districts. 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 None directly applicable.

Equalities Impact

- 4.1 One of the key requirements of the legislation is that polling places are accessible to disabled people so far as is reasonable and practical. The Council's disabled people's diversity forum and other key stakeholders will be consulted as part of the review

Health and Safety

- 5.1 Any specific recommendations will take account of Health and Safety considerations as part of the review

Environmental Sustainability

- 6.1 None directly applicable

Asset Management

- 7.1 Any premises related issues will be discussed with Property Services as part of the review process.

Risk Management

- 8.1 None directly applicable

Corporate objectives and priorities for change

9.1 None arising from this report.