

**Executive Members for City Strategy and
Advisory Panel**

10 September 2007

Report of the Head of Civic, Democratic and Legal Services

Review of Polling Districts, Polling Places and Polling Stations

Summary

1. This report informs Members of the duty on all local authorities to carry out a review of polling districts, polling places and polling stations in their area before the end of 2007 as laid down by the Electoral Administration Act 2006.

Background

2. The Electoral Administration Act 2006 was laid before Parliament on the 18th December 2006. The Act introduced a duty on all local authorities to carry out a review of polling districts, polling places and polling stations in their area by the end of 2007 and to carry out such a review every four years.

Aim of the Review

3. Local Authorities are required to divide their area into polling districts for the purposes of parliamentary elections and to designate polling places for these polling districts and to keep them under review.
4. Local Authorities must:
 - Seek to ensure that all electors in the constituency have such reasonable facilities for voting as are practicable in the circumstances
 - Seek to ensure that so far as is reasonable and practicable the polling places they are responsible for are accessible to all electors, including those who are disabled and when considering the designation of polling places must have regard to the accessibility needs of disabled persons.

The Review Process

5. A local authority is required to publish notice of the holding of a review and this in York has taken the form of a notice in the local press. The notice states that the review commenced on the 1st September and invites comments and representations from interested parties and bodies.
6. Consultation has also begun with local political parties, parish councils, disability awareness groups and local community groups.
7. A period of two months consultation now takes place which ends on the 27th October 2007.
8. At the end of this period of consultation any representations received will be brought before Members and Members may decide to make amendments to polling districts, polling places and/or polling stations.

Options

9. This is a statutory requirement and this report is by way of information only.

Consultation

10. There will be a process of consultation as part of the review

Corporate Priorities

12.
 - Improve the way the Council and it's partners work together to deliver better services
 - Improve our focus on the needs of customers and residents in designing and providing services
13. There are no financial, human resource, crime and disorder, information technology or property implications
14. **Equalities** The review will consider a range of equalities issues
15. **Legal** Necessary to meet legal requirements
16. **Risk management** Failure to meet statutory requirements would represent an unacceptable risk to the authority.

Recommendation

That the Advisory Panel advise the Executive Leader to note the contents of this report.

Reason

In order to comply with statutory requirements.

Contact Details

Author:
Elizabeth Ellis
Electoral and Civic Services
Manager
Chief Executives Department
Tel : 551051

Chief Officer Responsible for the report:
Suzan Hemingway
Head of Civic Democratic and Legal
Services
Tel :551004

Report Approved **Date** 15th August 2007

Wards Affected:

All **Yes**

For further information please contact the author of the report

Background Papers

Electoral Administration Act 2006