

Report of the Assistant Director of Governance and IT

## **Review of Polling Districts, Polling Places and Polling Stations**

### **1. Summary**

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 within four years of the completion of the first review carried out in 2007, as laid down by the Electoral Administration Act 2006.

### **2. Background**

The Electoral Administration Act 2006 was laid before Parliament on the 18<sup>th</sup> 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.

City of York Council completed the first review in November 2007 and the next review must be completed by November 2012.

### **3. Aim of the Review**

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.

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.

#### **4. The Review Process**

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 and on the Council Website. The notice stated that the review commenced on the 1<sup>st</sup> July 2011 and invites comments and representations from interested parties and bodies.

Consultation has also begun with local political parties, parish councils, disability awareness groups and local community groups.

A period of two months consultation now takes place, which ends on the 31<sup>st</sup> August 2011.

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.

#### **5. Options**

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

#### **6. Consultation**

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

#### **7. Corporate Objectives**

- 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

There are no financial, human resource, crime and disorder, information technology or property implications

## **8. Equalities**

The review will consider a range of equalities issues

## **9. Legal**

Necessary to meet legal requirements

## **10. Risk management**

Failure to meet statutory requirements would represent an unacceptable risk to the authority.

## **Recommendation**

Please note the contents of this report

## **Reason**

In order to comply with statutory requirements

**Contact Details**

**Author:**

**Andrew Flecknor  
Electoral Services  
Manager  
Customer & Business  
Support Services  
552032**

**Chief Officer Responsible for the  
report:**

**Andy Docherty  
Assistant Director of Governance &  
IT**

*Co-Author's Name*

*Title*

*Dept Name*

*Tel No.*

**Report  
Approved**



**Date 5/7/11**

**Wards Affected:**

**All  Yes**

**For further information please contact the author of the report**

**Background Papers**

**Electoral Administration Act 2006  
Representation of the People Act 1983**