



Report sponsor: Strategic Director of Corporate Resources
Report author: Elections and Local Land Charges Manager

Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places

Purpose

- 1.1 To advise Council of the results of the recent review of polling districts, polling places and polling stations and seek approval for the implementation of the proposed changes.

Recommendation

- 2.1 To approve the proposals for future polling arrangements for the city for Parliamentary elections as set out in **Appendix 1**.

Reasons

- 3.1 Council has a statutory responsibility under the Representation of the People Act 1983 to conduct a review of their polling districts and polling places by 31 January 2020. The review covers the UK Parliamentary constituencies of Derby North, Derby South and the part of Mid-Derbyshire that's within the city.
- 3.2 This review presents an opportunity to improve voting facilities for our electors and, as far as possible, make sure our polling stations are accessible.

Supporting information

- 4.1 The proposals for future polling arrangements in Appendix 1 are based on recommendations made by the (Acting) Returning Officer (ARO), following a second stage of public consultation.

Plans showing the proposed changes to polling district boundaries (where applicable) are provided in **Appendix 2**.

The ARO's original proposals made following the first stage of public consultation are provided in **Appendix 3**.

Responses to the 'Your City - Your Say' survey are set out in **Appendix 4**. All other representations made are at **Appendix 5**.

- 4.2 The Electoral Commission recommends that no more than 2,500 electors vote at a single polling station. More than one polling station may be present at a particular polling place, referred to as a 'double' or 'triple' station.

The proposed changes aim to ensure that electorate levels remain within this limit whilst accounting for planned development in the city over the next five years. This has been achieved either by designating new double stations, or by revising polling district boundaries.

- 4.3 The review will be effective from 1 February 2020. Any alterations made to polling district boundaries will be reflected in the revised register of electors published on that date.
- 4.4 Following the review, certain persons have a right to appeal:
- 30 or more electors in a constituency.
 - a person who made representations during the review under Schedule A1.
 - a person who is not an elector in a constituency in the city but who has either sufficient interest in disabled access to polling stations, or particular expertise in disabled access to premises and facilities.

An appeal may only be made on the grounds that the review was not conducted so as to meet the reasonable requirements of electors, or to take sufficient account of disabled access to polling stations.

- 4.5 The next compulsory review must be started and completed within the 16 month period commencing 1 October 2023. The Council may conduct a review of a particular polling district or polling place at any time.

Public/stakeholder engagement

- 5.1 Public consultation started on 1 August 2019. Stage 1 ended on 23 September 2019 and the representations received were considered when the ARO published her proposals. Stage 2 ended on 20 October 2019 and all representations received were considered when preparing the proposals in **Appendix 1**.
- 5.2 Details of the review were sent to councillors, Members of Parliament and local political parties. Documents were also published through 'Your City - Your Say' and on the council's website. Hard copies of the documents and ward maps were also made available at the Council House, Allestree Library and The Phillip Whitehead Memorial Library, Chaddesden Park. Representations were sought from members of the Council's Diversity Forum.

Other options

- 6.1 Options considered in relation to redrawing of polling districts and proposals for polling stations are contained in Appendix 1.

Financial and value for money issues

- 7.1 The designation of a new double station in Littleover ward will cause the Council to incur additional staff costs which will be met within the existing budget provision.

Legal implications

- 8.1 The review has been conducted in line with Schedule A1 to the Representation of the People Act 1983.

Other significant implications

- 9.1 None.

This report has been approved by the following people:

| Role | Name | Date of sign-off |
|---------------------|--|------------------|
| Legal | Emily Feenan, Director of Legal, Procurement and Democratic Services, and Monitoring Officer | 8 January 2020 |
| Finance | Simon Riley, Director of Finance | 10 January 2020 |
| Service Director(s) | Emily Feenan, Director of Legal, Procurement and Democratic Services, and Monitoring Officer | 8 January 2020 |
| Report sponsor | Paul Simpson, Strategic Director of Corporate Resources | 10 January 2020 |
| Other(s) | Carole Mills, Chief Executive | 28 October 2019 |

Background papers:

List of appendices:

Appendix 1 - Proposed polling arrangements
Appendix 2 – Ward maps showing the revised polling district boundaries in Derwent, Littleover and Mickleover wards.
Appendix 3 – ARO's proposals following Stage 1 of public consultation.
Appendix 4 - Representations made under Schedule A1 of the Representation of the People Act 1983.
Appendix 5 - Responses to 'Your City - Your Say' Questionnaire