

**FULL COUNCIL**

**14 DECEMBER 2011**

**REPORT OF ELECTORAL REGISTRAR OFFICER**

**REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICTS AND POLLING PLACES**

**1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To implement The Review of Polling District and Polling Places (Parliamentary Elections) Regulations 2006 in carrying out a review every four years.
- 1.2 Implement the recommendations of the Review which commenced on the 8<sup>th</sup> August 2011

**2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 **That the Polling Districts and Polling Places be designated as per the attached schedule. See appendix 1.**
- 2.2 **Continue to monitor all Polling Districts and Polling Places on an on going basis.**

**3.0 KEY ISSUES**

- 3.1 The Review of Polling District and Polling Places (Parliamentary Elections) Regulations 2006 requires every authority to carry out a review every four years with the review of the Polling District and Polling Places to be completed by the 31<sup>st</sup> December 2011.
- 3.2 The Review commenced on the 8<sup>th</sup> August 2011
- 3.3 The Review was carried out by the Elections Officer on behalf of the Electoral Registration Officer
- 3.4 Matters that have been considered when carrying out the review
  - (a) The Council must seek to ensure that all electors have such reasonable facilities for voting as are practicable in the circumstances
  - (b) The Council must seek to ensure that, so far as is reasonable and practicable, every polling place is accessible to electors who are disabled
  - (c) Ideally the Polling Place should be in its own Polling District
  - (d) Ideally there should be 2,000 – 2,500 electors per polling district
  - (e) No Polling Place should be shared by two wards
  - (f) Where possible, natural boundaries should be used, such as railways, major roads, waterways
  - (g) All properties in a minor road or estate should be in the same polling district: and
  - (h) polling places should be “logical”: that is, electors should not have to pass another polling place to get to their own place

- 3.5 A review of the Polling Districts and Polling Places must be carried out every four years
- 3.6 The arrangements made for Parliamentary Elections are also used at other Elections
- 3.7 It should be noted that the Council has powers to change Polling Places and Polling Districts Boundaries, but not Ward Boundaries.

#### **4.0 POLICY AND CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 There are no Policy and Corporate implications

#### **5.0 FINANCIAL AND OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 If the review recommendations are adopted and results in the increase of one polling station there may be a case to require an increase in budget of £500.00 for Borough and Parish Elections only. No added costs for other Elections as they are met by Central Government and Leicestershire County Council.

#### **6.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS/POWERS**

- 6.1 The Review has been carried out in line with the Representation of the People Act, the Electoral Administration Act 2006 and the Review of Polling District and Polling Places (Parliamentary Elections) Regulation 2006.

#### **7.0 COMMUNITY SAFETY**

- 7.1 There are no Community Safety issues relating to this Report

#### **8.0 EQUALITIES**

- 8.1 Equality Impact Assessment has been completed

#### **9.0 RISKS**

- 9.1 No risks have been identified

#### **10.0 CLIMATE CHANGE**

- 10.1 There are no climate change implications relating to this report

#### **11.0 CONSULTATION**

- 11.1 Consultation has been carried out with the following partners:-

- (a) Member of Parliament
- (b) Members of European Parliament
- (c) County Councillors

(d) Borough Councillors

(e) Parish Councillor

(f) Parish Councils

(g) Presiding Officer

(h) Poll Clerks

(i) Access Group

(j) Acting Returning Officer for Rutland and Melton Parliamentary Constituency

(k) Election Agents

(l) RNIB

(m) SCOPE

A summary of the number of replies received is attached. See Appendix 2

## 12.0 **WARDS AFFECTED**

### 12.1 All Wards

Contact Officer      Sally A Renwick  
Date:                    29<sup>th</sup> November 2011

Appendices :        Attached

Background Papers:

Reference :            Q: Committees\SAR\Review of Polling Stations