

Report of the Executive Director

INTERIM REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICTS AND POLLING PLACES1. Purpose of Report

To inform the Committee of the arrangements for the interim review of polling districts and polling places which will begin on 1 August 2022.

2. Recommendation

The Committee is asked to NOTE the proposed arrangements for the interim review of polling district and polling places.

3. Detail

All relevant local authorities are responsible for reviewing UK Parliamentary polling districts and places for so much of any constituency as is situated in their area. The Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013 introduced a change to the timing of compulsory reviews; the next is to be started and completed between 1 October 2023 and 31 January 2024 (inclusive). However, there is provision for an interim review to be carried out where changes may be needed as a result of a Community Governance Review (CGR) or a change to a polling place. Given the change to some parish boundaries following the CGR completed in May, polling districts need to be reviewed in Awsworth, Cossall and Trowell, Bramcote, Greasley, Kimberley and Stapleford Wards. In addition, some temporary changes were required to polling places for the 2021 elections due to social distancing requirements. The opportunity has therefore also been taken to review polling places ahead of the elections in 2023. The views of members on the proposed polling places, particularly where an alternative is being put forward, will be welcome. Details of the process to be followed when carrying out a review is set out in the appendix.

The review in Broxtowe will be carried out between 1 August and 30 September 2022. A further report will be submitted to this Committee on 28 November 2022 setting out responses received to the consultation and recommendations for any changes to be considered by Council on 14 December 2022.

If any changes are made to polling district boundaries the Electoral Registration Officer must amend the electoral register accordingly. A revised register will, if necessary, be published on 1 February 2023. The (Acting) Returning Officers for both the Broxtowe and Ashfield Parliamentary Constituencies will also be required to comment on the polling stations which would be used if any proposals for new polling places are accepted. Election rules require the (Acting) Returning Officer to decide how many polling stations are required for each polling place and must allocate electors to the polling stations as they think most convenient.

While legislation does not provide a role for the Electoral Commission in the review process, specified interested parties may make representations to the Commission to reconsider any polling districts and polling places once the Council has published the results of its review. The Commission may direct the Authority to make any alterations

to the polling places which it thinks necessary and, if the alterations are not made within two months, may make the alterations itself.

4. Financial Implications

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

5. Legal Implications

The Representation of the People Act 1983 requires the Council to carry out a review of polling districts and polling places within each parliamentary constituency in its area.

6. Human Resources Implications

There are no Human Resources implications.

7. Union Comments

There are no comments from the Union.

8. Data Protection Compliance Implications

There are no data protection implications.

9. Equality Impact Assessment

The review will seek to ensure that all polling stations are accessible for everyone.

10. Background Papers

Nil.

APPENDIXReview process

When carrying out the review, local authorities must:

- publish a notice of the holding of a review
- consult the (Acting) Returning Officer for every parliamentary constituency which is wholly or partly in its area
- publish all representations made by an (Acting) Returning Officer within 30 days of receipt by posting a copy of them at the local authority's office and in at least one conspicuous place in their area and, if the authority maintains a website, by placing a copy on the authority's website
- seek representations from such persons as it thinks have particular expertise in relation to access to premises or facilities for persons who have different forms of disability. Such persons must have an opportunity to make representations and to comment on the representations made by the (Acting) Returning Officer(s).
- on completion of a review, give reasons for its decisions and publish:
 - a. all correspondence sent to an (Acting) Returning Officer in connection with the review
 - b. all correspondence sent to any person whom the authority thinks has particular expertise in relation to access to premises or facilities for persons who have different forms of disability
 - c. all representations made by any person in connection with the review
 - d. the minutes of any meeting held by the Council to consider any revision to the designation of polling districts or polling places within its area as a result of the review
 - e. details of the designation of polling districts and polling places within the local authority area as a result of the review
 - f. details of the places where the results of the review have been published

Notice of the interim review will be sent to the Acting Returning Officers for the Broxtowe and Ashfield Parliamentary Constituencies, all members of Broxtowe Council, County Councillors for electoral divisions within Broxtowe, the MPs for the Broxtowe and Ashfield Parliamentary Constituencies, local political parties and local disability organisations. It will also be advertised on the Council's website and through social media.