



Ryedale District Council

REPORT TO: Policy & Resources Committee

DATE: 4 October 2007

REPORTING OFFICER: Electoral Registration Officer

SUBJECT: Review of Polling Districts, Polling Places and Polling Stations

WARDS AFFECTED: All

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To inform Members of the Council's duty to carry out a review of polling districts, polling places and polling stations throughout Ryedale before the 31 December 2007 as prescribed by the Electoral Administration Act 2006.

2. BACKGROUND

The Electoral Administration Act 2006 sets out a requirement for all local authorities to carry out a review of polling districts, polling places and polling stations by 31 December 2007 and thereafter to carry out such a review every four years.

3. INTRODUCTION

The Council is required to divide the parliamentary constituency within Ryedale into polling districts for the purposes of parliamentary elections and to designate polling places within those polling districts and keep the same under review.

In carrying out the review the Council must:

- Seek to ensure that all electors throughout 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, such polling places and polling stations are accessible to all electors, including those who are disabled and when considering the designation of polling places, have regard to the accessibility needs of disabled persons.

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4. THE REVIEW PROCESS

The Council is required to publish notice of the review. Notice was given on 3rd September 2007 by publication on the Council's website and at the following public buildings: -

Ryedale House, Malton
Learning Resource Centre, Pickering
The Community Office, Kirby Moorside
The Town Hall, Helmsley

The notice states that the review commenced on the 3rd September and invites comments and representations from interested parties and bodies.

Consultation will be undertaken with elected members, electors, local political parties, parish councils, disability awareness groups and local community groups.

A period of six weeks consultation will take place, ending on the 15th October 2007.

At the end of this period of consultation any representations received will be brought before Members of the Council in order that they may recommend to the Council such alterations or amendments to polling districts, polling places and/or polling stations as thought necessary.

5. TIMETABLE

Notice of Review	3 September 2007
Consultation Ends	15 October 2007
Proposals Published	w/c 22 October 2007
Council	8 November 2007

6. OPTIONS

The conduct of the review is a statutory requirement. This report is by way of information only

7. CORPORATE OBJECTIVES

- Improve the way the Council and it's partner organisations work together to deliver better services.
- Improve the Council's focus on the needs of its customers and citizens in designing and providing services

8. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

None arising directly from this report. However there may be a consequential cost to the Council in circumstances where a polling station is relocated within an alternative polling place.

9. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

None arising directly from this report

10. RISK ASSESSMENT

Failure to conduct the review would constitute a breach of the Council's statutory obligation.

11. CONCLUSION

Members are requested to note the report

OFFICER CONTACT: Please contact David Ellis 01653 600666 Ext 277 if you require any further information on the contents of this report.