



Ryedale District Council

Elections - Polling Arrangements

Review of Polling Districts, Polling Places and Polling Stations

Summary of the (Acting) Returning Officer's Proposals and Background Information

Introduction

The Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013 introduced a duty on local authorities to carry out and complete reviews of polling districts and places in the period of 16 months beginning with 1 October 2013, and then in the period of 16 months beginning with 1 October of every fifth year after that.

Definition of Terms

Parliamentary Constituency - cannot be changed by the Review. The division of the Parliamentary Constituency within Ryedale into polling districts and places is the subject of the current Review.

Polling Districts - the area created by the division of a Constituency, Ward or Division into smaller parts, within which a polling place can be determined which is convenient to electors.

Polling Place - the building or area in which polling stations will be selected by the Returning Officer.

Polling Station - the room where the poll takes place. Chosen by the Returning Officer for the Election and publicised on the Notice of Poll and communicated on the poll card at an Election.

What is not being reviewed

The following were not covered by the Review:

- The boundaries of Parliamentary Constituencies. Ryedale District is wholly contained within the Thirsk and Malton Constituency. The Constituency is comprised of the twenty Ryedale District Council Wards, together with twelve Wards from Hambleton District Council and two Wards from Scarborough Borough Council. However, the Review in the Ryedale area will be concerned only with existing arrangements in the Ryedale District.
- The borders and names of Local Authorities and electoral areas within Local Authorities.

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 these 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 a polling place, must have regard to the accessibility needs of disabled persons.

The Difference between a Polling District, Polling Place and a Polling Station

- A polling district is a geographical sub-division of an electoral area i.e. a UK Parliamentary Constituency, a European Parliamentary Electoral Region, a County Council Electoral Division or a Local Authority Ward. The Council is responsible for dividing its area into polling districts and for keeping the polling districts under review. When designating polling districts the Council must seek to ensure that all the electors in the Constituency have such reasonable facilities for voting as are practicable. In addition, unless there are special circumstances, each Parish must be in a separate polling district.
- A polling place is a geographical area in which a polling station is located. This could even be defined as a particular building where the polling station is located. The Council must designate a polling place for every polling district in the parliamentary constituency and must keep polling places under review. The Council must seek to ensure that so far as is reasonable and practicable the designated polling places are accessible to all electors, including electors who are disabled.
- A polling station is the actual area where the process of voting takes place and must be located within the polling place. The Returning Officer is responsible for designating polling stations and must provide a sufficient number of stations and allot electors to those stations. The Returning Officer may provide one or more polling stations within the same room.

The Review Process

- The Council is required to publish a Notice of the holding of a Review. The Council is also required to actively seek representations from other interested persons and bodies. Consultation has therefore taken place with elected representatives, local political parties, parish councils, local community groups and electors, together with other interested parties.
- A period of consultation followed the publication of the Notice.
- The Review commenced on the 1 October 2013 and a period of two months consultation has taken place ending on the 30 November 2013. At the end of this period of consultation all representations received will be considered by Ryedale District Council, who may decide to make amendments to polling districts, polling places and/or polling stations.
- Representations were invited from electors, elected members, local political groups, parish councils, disability awareness groups and local community groups and should be made in writing to the Electoral Registration Officer, Ryedale House, Old Malton Road, Malton, North Yorkshire YO17 7HH no later than the 30 November 2013.

Timetable for the Review

| | |
|--|------------------|
| Notice of the start of the Review | 1 October 2013 |
| Comments from the Consultation | 30 November 2013 |
| Publication of the Returning Officer's proposals | |
| Report to the Council | 6 March 2014 |
| Arrangements effective from | 1 April 2014 |

Returning Officer's Comments and Proposals

The Returning Officer is, as part of the Review process, obliged to comment on the situation and suitability of polling stations within the District of Ryedale. Throughout the Review the Returning Officer has sought to maintain the present situation of polling places and polling stations wherever it has been apparent that the most reasonable facilities for voting are provided.

Consequently changes have been kept to a minimum, but nevertheless reflect the desire for change and improvement evident from those making comment during the Review. The proposals are summarised in the table below.

| Ward | Polling District | Proposed Polling Place/Polling Station | Existing Polling Place/Polling Station |
|----------------|------------------|---|--|
| Wolds | Luttons | Luttons School/Community Hall West Lutton | The Three Tuns East Lutton |
| Thornton Dale | Marishes | Bellafax Grange Marishes | The Hill Institute Maltongate Thornton le Dale |
| Kirkbymoorside | Kirkbymoorside | The Old Library Church Street Kirkbymoorside [subject to completion of renovation works and a satisfactory assessment of the new facilities] | Memorial Hall Kirkbymoorside |
| Derwent | Howsham | Village Hall Westow | Wychwood Howsham |
| Sherburn | Heslerton East | Village Hall Sherburn | Church Room East Heslerton |

Whilst the period of Consultation upon the general Review ended on the 30 November last, comments on the recommendations contained herein are welcomed. Any such comments, supportive or otherwise should be sent to:

The Democratic Services Manager
Ryedale District Council
Ryedale House
Malton
North Yorkshire
YO17 7HH

e-mail elections@ryedale.gov.uk

Not later than 31 January 2014