

## **COUNCIL – 25 OCTOBER 2011**

### **REPORT OF CHIEF OFFICER (CORPORATE & CUSTOMER RESOURCES, SCRUTINY & ETHICAL STANDARDS)** **RE: POLLING DISTRICT, POLLING PLACE & POLLING STATION REVIEW 2011**

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#### **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

To introduce and seek Council approval of the 2011 Polling District and Polling Place Review so that it may be published.

#### **2. RECOMMENDATION**

Council approves the Polling District and Polling Place Review

#### **3. BACKGROUND TO THE REPORT**

3.1 Under the Representation of the People Act 1983, the Council has a duty to divide the borough into polling districts and to designate a polling place for each district. It also is required to keep these arrangements under review.

3.2 Section 16 of the Electoral Administration Act 2006 introduced a number of changes to the 1983 Act in respect of the way reviews must be undertaken.

3.3 The most important change is that the Council must conduct a full review within 4 years of the last full review which took place in 2007

3.4 The attached report gives details of the review undertaken in 2011 and has been produced following an extensive consultation period, whereby Members, Political Parties, Parish Clerks, members of the public, stakeholders, disability groups, Presiding Officers and Returning Officers have had opportunity to comment on current arrangements and future proposals. The final report brings together these representations and proposes arrangements for the future.

3.5 A working party, constituting one senior member from each political party, has considered the options available and its comments have also been incorporated into the final document.

3.6 Council is requested to confirm and agree the Final Report at this meeting, in order to ensure that the Review is completed and can be published within the four year timescale and ahead of 1 December publication of the Electoral Register.

#### **4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS (AB)**

Failure to approve the report prior to the publication of the Register will lead to a cost implication associated with re-publishing the Register after 1 December 2011, because there is a potential for changes being made to the register due to this review. There are no other financial implications.

#### **5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS (LH)**

The review must be completed which requires Council to approve the Polling District and Polling Place Review within 4 years of the date on which the full review was last agreed (30 October 2007)

## 6. **CORPORATE PLAN IMPLICATIONS**

The review contributes to the Corporate Aim of strong & distinctive communities by allowing consultation of stakeholders the opportunity for a robust and thorough review of current arrangements

## 7. **CONSULTATION**

Borough Councillors, Acting Returning Officer for the Bosworth constituency, Acting Returning Officer for the Charnwood constituency, Political Parties, Presiding Officers, Public, Parish Clerks, Disability Groups and other stakeholders

## 8. **RISK IMPLICATIONS**

It is the Council's policy to proactively identify and manage significant risks which may prevent delivery of business objectives.

It is not possible to eliminate or manage all risks all of the time and risks will remain which have not been identified. However, it is the officer's opinion based on the information available, that the significant risks associated with this decision / project have been identified, assessed and that controls are in place to manage them effectively.

The following significant risks associated with this report / decisions were identified from this assessment:

<b>Management of significant (Net Red) Risks</b>		
<b>Risk Description</b>	<b>Mitigating actions</b>	<b>Owner</b>
Failure to carry out and publish review within 4 years of the previous review in 2007	Approval by Council and subsequent publication	Louisa Horton

## 9. **KNOWING YOUR COMMUNITY – EQUALITY AND RURAL IMPLICATIONS**

Rural polling districts and places have been considered within the review together with regard to equal access.

## 10. **CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS**

Health and Safety and Human Resource implications have been considered.

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Background papers: Polling District, Polling Place & Polling Station Review – Council Proposals 2011

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