Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places in the Borough of Chesterfield 2019

Consultation Document for the 2019 Review

Consultation period runs from
2 July – 12 August 2019
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Appendix A – Proposals document

Contact information:

Information on who can make representations and comments and where to address them is given on page 5 of this consultation document.

If you want to talk to someone about this review or want further information about any other electoral matter please contact:

Julie Briggs
Elections Manager,
Chesterfield Borough Council,
Town Hall,
Chesterfield
S40 1LP
Telephone (01246) 345806
E-mail: elections@chesterfield.gov.uk

If you would wish to receive this consultation document in an alternative format, such as large print, please let us know by contacting Electoral Services by:

- E-mail: elections@chesterfield.gov.uk
- Telephone: (01246) 345806
1. Introduction to this Review

The Electoral Administration Act 2006 introduced a duty for all polling districts and polling places to be reviewed every four years. The Council’s first review was carried out in 2007 and subsequent reviews were carried out in 2011 and 2014. The next compulsory review must be started and completed between 1st October 2018 and 31st January 2020. The Council must carry out a full review of the arrangements under which its area is divided into polling districts and by which polling places are provided within those districts. The review covers both the whole area governed by the Borough Council and any parliamentary constituencies that come within it. In between full reviews, a review must also be undertaken when a change in a particular polling place is proposed to be made.


This document forms the basis of the consultation on the review. Information about the procedures for making representations is given later in this paper and the draft proposals, including proposals for change, are set out in the appendix.

2. Definitions

“Parliamentary constituency”. The subject of this review is the division of the borough and the parliamentary constituency into polling districts and the provision of polling places; the actual constituency boundaries cannot be changed by this review.

“Polling district”. This is the area created by the division of a constituency or local government electoral area, such as a ward. The borough council is responsible for deciding the boundaries of polling districts. In England, each parish must be a separate polling district, although larger parishes can be divided into two or more districts. A parish must not be in a polling district which has a part of a different parish within it, or any un-parished part of the local authority area within it.

“Polling place”. This is the building or area in which the Returning Officer will locate polling stations.

“Polling station”. This is the actual area where the process of voting takes place. This must be located within the polling place and designated for the particular polling district. This function of identifying a polling station is the responsibility of the Returning Officer.
3. **The Review process**

As part of the review process the Council must:

- seek to ensure that all electors in the constituency/local government area 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 are accessible to those who are disabled; and

- when considering or reviewing the designation of a polling place, have regard to the accessibility needs of disabled persons.

The Council is required to publish notice of the holding of a review. Information about the review is made available on the Council’s website and can also be obtained from Electoral Services at the Town Hall, Chesterfield.

The consultation document will also be sent to

- the local Members of Parliament
- Borough and County Councillors
- local political parties
- persons who have particular expertise in relation to access to premises or facilities for persons who have different forms of disability.

The consultation period for this review will run from 2 July to 12 August 2019.

The timetable for this review is as follows:

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<td>2 July 2019</td>
<td>Publication of Notice and commencement of the review. Start of consultation period</td>
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<tr>
<td>12 August 2019</td>
<td>Deadline for receipt of public comments on the review</td>
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<tr>
<td>26 August 2019</td>
<td>Publication of the (Acting) Returning Officer's comments and proposals</td>
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4. The role of the Returning Officer

The Council is required to consult the (Acting) Returning Officer for every Parliamentary constituency that is wholly or partly within its area. This consultation document includes any proposals made by the (Acting) Returning Officer for the Chesterfield Constituency, notice of which has been given to the (Acting) Returning Officer for the adjoining North East Derbyshire Constituency.

5. The proposals of this Review

The publication of this consultation document represents the first stage of the review. The appendix to this consultation document (the proposals document) sets out details of current polling district and polling places for each of the 19 wards in the Borough of Chesterfield and details where changes are proposed. This appendix also provides a breakdown of the number of electors allocated to each polling district that are eligible to vote at the polling station. A set of maps illustrating where the boundaries of the polling districts are located will be available to view on the council’s website at www.chesterfield.gov.uk/elections

Copies of the maps will also be available to view at the Town Hall, Chesterfield S40 1LP

6. How to comment on the Review

Any elector in the whole of the borough, whether they live in the Chesterfield Borough Constituency or those parts of the North East Derbyshire Constituency which come within the borough, may make representations to the Council. Representations will also be considered from persons who have particular expertise in relation to access to premises or facilities for persons who have different forms of disability.

As part of this first stage you are invited to comment on the existing
scheme, and if you feel it appropriate you may suggest changes to polling district boundaries or alternative proposals for polling places. It would help us if you could also give reasons for changes you have suggested.

All representations will be published on the Council’s website as soon as possible after receipt, even if you have already commented on the proposals; you may make further submissions in response to views and comments you see on the website. Anyone making representations is requested to suggest alternative polling districts/places to those proposed where appropriate and to give reasons for the alternative.

Any representations or comments must be received by 5pm on 12 August 2019.

All representations should be addressed to:

Julie Briggs, Elections Manager,
(Polling Districts Review),
Chesterfield Borough Council,
Town Hall,
Chesterfield
S40 1LP

Those who wish to email their representations should send them to elections@chesterfield.gov.uk (with the words “Polling Districts Review” in the subject line).

All representations received will be published on the Council’s website as soon as possible after receipt.

7. Completion of the Review

A report containing the findings of the review and any proposed changes to polling districts and polling places will be submitted to a meeting of the Council’s Employment and General Committee on 4 November 2019. The Committee will be asked to consider the proposals and representations received and make a final decision. The Council is required to give reasons for its decisions in respect of the designation of both polling districts and polling places.

The new electoral register containing any revised polling districts will be published on 1 December 2019. Any new polling districts and polling places will become effective at all elections held after this date.

In addition, the Council must publish:

- all correspondence received in connection with the review and all
correspondence sent to any person who the Council thinks has particular expertise in relation to access to premises or facilities for persons who have different forms of disability;

• all representations made by any person in connection with the review;

• the minutes of any meetings held by the Employment and General Committee where details of the review have been considered;

• details of the actual designations of polling districts and polling places agreed as a result of the review; and

• details of where the results of the review have been published.

8. Challenging the outcome of the Review

The Electoral Commission plays no part in the conduct of the review itself. However, it does have a role to play if anyone believes that the Council has not carried out the review properly and has failed to:

• meet the reasonable requirements of the electors in the local government area/constituency, or a body of them (i.e. the reasonable requirements of a particular area of the authority have not been satisfactorily met); or

• take sufficient account of the accessibility to disabled persons of polling stations within a designated polling place.

If that is the case, the following may make representations in writing to the Electoral Commission:

• not less than 30 registered electors in the constituency review being undertaken (except the (Acting) Returning Officer)

• any person who has made representations to the authority when the review was being undertaken

• any parish council wholly or partially situated within the constituency

• any person who is not an elector within the constituency who the Electoral Commission feels has sufficient interest in the accessibility of disabled persons.

Representations about the review should be sent to:
The (Acting) Returning Officer may make observations on any representations made to the Commission.

9. **Review by the Electoral Commission**

The Electoral Commission is required to consider any such representations and observations, and after doing so, may direct the relevant council to make any alterations it sees necessary to the polling places designated by the review. Should a council fail to make the alterations within two months of the direction being given, the Commission may make the alterations itself.