

BABERGH DISTRICT COUNCIL

Review of Polling Districts and Places

The reason for a review

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

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

Most importantly, the Council has to conduct a full review every four years and is currently undertaking a review that will be completed by 31 December 2011.

How the review is conducted

The Council previously announced that a review was to take place. The Returning Officer has been consulted and has made representations on the existing and proposed polling arrangements. The Council is now publishing the Returning Officer's proposals in order to receive comments thereon. These will be considered before any final decisions are made.

The Council particularly wishes to obtain the views of people with expertise in relation to access to premises or facilities for persons who have different forms of disability.

Any elector may make representations.

The role of The Electoral Commission

The Electoral Commission has no role in the review process itself but it can consider comments if people do not think the review has met the reasonable requirements of electors or taken sufficient account of the needs of disabled electors.

The following people can "appeal" to The Commission:

- 30 or more registered electors
- any person who made comments during the review
- any non-elector who has expertise in access to premises or facilities for disabled people.

As a result, the Commission could direct the Council to alter polling arrangements arising from the review, and can make these alterations itself if the Council does not do so within two months.

Making comments

The Returning Officer's representations may be viewed at the Council's offices, Corks Lane, Hadleigh.

Comments on the proposals should be made in writing to the Senior Democratic Services Manager, Babergh District Council, Corks Lane, Hadleigh, IPSWICH IP7 6SJ (or by e-mail to electoral@babergh.gov.uk by no later than Friday, 28 October 2011.

Charlie Adan
Electoral Registration Officer
26 September 2011