

BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL

PARISH FORUM - 28TH SEPTEMBER 2011

Electoral Shared Services Summary Report

Co-Options and Casual Vacancies

There is now a new table which details the number of seats per Parish / Parish Ward, Councillors names, vacant seats and reason for vacancy available on council's websites, in the Parish Councils area - this is updated as any casual vacancy occurs and when elections / co-options takes place.

Please ensure that details of any new Councillor co-option to uncontested seats following the elections in May 2011 and the date of their co-option are sent to the Electoral Shared Service office.

Also, any future casual vacancy should be immediately notified to the Returning Officer via the Electoral Shared Services office for a casual vacancy notice to be provided - guidance for these procedures has been previously issued.

Please contact the office if you require further information - 01527 881421.

Elections 2011 Accounts

We have been compiling the accounts for the Referendum and Local Elections held in May and will shortly be sending invoices to Parish Councils for the uncontested and contested Parish Elections.

Annual Canvass for the Register of Electors 2011 / 2012

As you may be aware we are now conducting the annual canvass for the register to be published on 1st December 2011 - 74,500 registration forms have been delivered to all households in both Councils. The form has details of current information held for residents to check, confirm the details as correct or amend where necessary. A team of 57 canvassers are employed to make follow-up visits to those non-responders so that we can obtain as accurate register as possible for elections in 2012.

A name can only be carried forward for one year, so persistent non-responders will find that their names will be deleted from the register.

Polling Station Annual Review 2011

Local authorities need to conduct a four yearly larger scale consultation for their polling station review. This type of review was first carried out in 2007 and has a

formal timetable with wide-scale consultation and published recommendations, etc. There was wider formal review was conducted in 2010 in both Councils as preparation for combined Parliamentary and Local elections in 2011. The more usual annual review is taking place now and consultation has commenced - please let the Electoral Shared Services office know if you are aware of more suitable premises for use as a polling station in your electoral area.

New Parliamentary Constituency Boundaries Review

Initial proposals for new parliamentary constituency boundaries were published on 13th September for a **twelve week consultation period to 5th December 2012** (a summary copy and full details of the initial proposals is available on the Council's website).

A brief background note:

- To reduce the number of constituencies from 650 to 600 (502 in England);
- To be conducted on a European Region level - the West Midlands region has 59 constituencies to be reduced to 54;
- The new constituency size is to be between 72,810 and 80,473 using 1st December 2010 published electorate figures;
- To use district / borough council wards (as at 6th May 2010) as building blocks;
- Initial proposal invite written submissions of support or objection with a viable alternative proposal to:

**The Boundary Commission for England
35 Great Smith Street
London
SW1P 3BQ**

Email: westmidlands@bcommengland.x.gsi.gov.uk

Or via the online form on the Boundary Commission for England website
(see link below)

- Four 2-day hearings to be held in the West Midlands area in November (list available on website).

Details have been placed on deposit at council offices and other leading premises (list available on Council's website) plus **the Boundary Commission for England website:**

www.consultation.boundarycommissionforengland.independent.gov.uk

Subsequent consultation will be undertaken where representations are received for revised proposals. The Boundary Commission has to complete and report to Parliament by 1st October 2013.

Please consider this review at your parish meeting.

Elections 2012

There will be local elections in Redditch in all wards except Abbey, Astwood Bank and Feckenham, and Crabbs Cross Wards).

The elections for Police and Crime Commissioners may be combined with local elections on 3rd May 2012, or held as a separate election on 15th November 2012 - legislation still to be made.

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Websites: www.bromsgrove.gov.uk/elections or www.redditchbc.gov.uk/elections