



Borough of Telford and Wrekin

Boundary Review Committee

Wednesday 11 February 2026

6.00 pm

Council Chamber, Third Floor, Southwater One, Telford, TF3 4JG

Democratic Services: Millie Wallace 01952 381542

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Committee Members: Councillors G Luter (Chair), Z Hannington (Vice-Chair), K T Blundell, M Boylan, N A Dugmore, N A M England and R A Overton

	Agenda	Page
1.0	Apologies for Absence	
2.0	Declarations of Interest	
3.0	Minutes of the Previous Meeting	3 - 6
	To confirm the minutes of the previous meeting held on 4 November 2025.	
4.0	Polling Districts, Places and Stations Review 2026	7 - 12
	To consider commencing a review of Polling Districts, Places and Stations.	
5.0	Appendix A - Draft Terms of Reference	13 - 18
6.0	Appendix B - Draft Timetable	19 - 20

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BOUNDARY REVIEW COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting of the Boundary Review Committee held on Tuesday 4 November 2025 at 6.00 pm in the Council Chamber, Third Floor, Southwater One, Telford, TF3

Present: Councillors G Luter (Chair), Z Hannington (Vice-Chair), K T Blundell, M Boylan, N A Dugmore and R A Overton

In Attendance: .

Apologies for Absence: None

BRC11 Declarations of Interest

None.

BRC12 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the previous meeting held on 4 September 2025 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

BRC13 Community Governance Review 2025

The Council's Director of Policy and Governance introduced the report, which provided the Committee with further information following the last meeting of the Committee, held on 4 September.

The report included consultation responses in respect of the following seven areas that were subject to a third round of consultation:

- Brookside and Hollinswood, Randlay and Stirchley
- Horsehay, Lightmoor, Little Dawley and Aqueduct;
- Lawley and Overdale;
- Madeley;
- St Georges and Donnington;
- The Gorge;
- Wrockwardine and Rodington

The report also provided a summary analysis of the consultation responses received during the third phase of consultation and the recommended proposals for each of the proposed Town and Parish Councils within the Borough.

The Director of Policy and Governance reported that the Community Governance Review (CGR) had been launched in February 2025 with three rounds of consultation being held.

She said that the Committee was being asked to reach a final decision in respect of the Town and Parish Council arrangements for the entire Borough and that, in respect of Recommendations e) and f) to the report, the Committee was required to consider the contents of Section 5 to the report (councillor numbers, warding arrangements for some Councils and the proposed boundary for Muxton Parish Council), as well as the summary (Appendix J) and associated maps (Appendix K) for the proposed Town and Parish Council arrangements for the entire borough of Telford and Wrekin, to include councillor numbers, names of Town and Parish Councils, warding arrangements and boundary maps.

A member said that Muxton still had an arbitrary boundary and that other areas within the ward were roads and not polling districts. He said that whilst it may be good practice, it was not being applied across the borough. In response, officers advised that some of the Member had mentioned were polling districts.

It was reported that the Council had received a proposal from Oakengates Town Council to consider a change to its name as part of the consultation process and that delegated authority to process the request would be sought from the Committee.

RESOLVED – that:

- a) The Committee’s thanks to all those who had responded to the third phase consultation on the Community Governance Review 2025, be placed on record.**
- b) The Committee’s thanks to Shropshire Association of Local Councils for its support and feedback during the third phase of the consultation, be placed on record.**
- c) The contents of Appendices A to H to the report, which contained responses in respect of each of the areas that were subject to the third round of consultation, be noted.**
- d) The contents of Appendix I, which summarised the consultation responses and the draft proposals in respect of the seven areas that were subject to further consultation, be noted.**
- e) In respect of councillor numbers, warding arrangements for some Councils and the proposed boundary for Muxton Parish Council:**
 - i. That the membership of Kynnersley Parish Council be increased from five, to six.**

- ii. That the request by Ercall Magna Parish Council to introduce new warding arrangements made up of High Ercall and Walton (6); Ellerdine and Rowton (4) and Roden and Poynton (2), be approved.
- iii. That following a discussion at the last meeting of the Boundary Review Committee on the proposed boundary for the Muxton Parish Council, the suggestion that the southern boundary extend down School Lane, then head east along Granville Road to Lodge Road, be approved.
- f) The proposed Town and Parish Council arrangements for the entire borough, which included councillor numbers, names of Town and Parish Councils, warding arrangements and boundary maps, as detailed at Appendices J and K to the report, be approved.
- g) The Monitoring Officer be authorised, in consultation with the Chair of the Boundary Review Committee, to meet with representatives from Oakengates Town Council to agree a change of name prior to the new arrangements becoming effective in May 2027.

Before declaring the meeting closed, the Chair took the opportunity to extend his thanks to everyone who had taken part in the consultation and to the Council's officers for all their hard work bringing this piece of work together.

The meeting ended at 7.56 pm

Chairman:

Date: Wednesday 11 February 2026

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Telford & Wrekin
Co-operative Council

Protect, care and invest
to create a better borough

Borough of Telford and Wrekin

Boundary Review Committee

11 February 2026

Interim Review of Polling Districts, Polling Places and Polling Stations 2026

Lead Director: Anthea Lowe – Director: Policy & Governance
Service Area: Policy & Governance
Report Author: Anthea Lowe – Director: Policy & Governance
Officer Contact Details: Tel: 01952 383219 Email: anthea.lowe@telford.gov.uk
Wards Affected: All wards

1.0 Recommendations for decision:

1.1 It is recommended that the Boundary Review Committee:-

- a) Agree to commence an interim review of Polling Districts, Polling Places and Polling Stations;
- b) Approve the draft Terms of Reference for the review of Polling Districts, Places and Stations attached at **Appendix A** of this report; and
- c) Approve the draft timetable attached at **Appendix B** attached to this report.

2.0 Purpose of Report

- 2.1 The purpose of this report is to provide members of the Committee with proposals for undertaking a review of Polling Districts, Places and Stations and a draft timetable for undertaking that review.
- 2.2 The Committee is asked to consider the information contained in this report and the accompanying Appendices in determining whether or not to commence a review.

3.0 Background

3.1 Every local authority with electoral responsibilities is required to undertake a review of Polling Districts, Polling Places and Polling Stations every 5 years. The period in which such a review must be carried out is set out in legislation. Every statutory review must be carried out during a 16-month period commencing on 1 October in every fifth year from 2013. Telford & Wrekin Council last carried out a statutory review in November 2023. The proposals contained in this report are for the Council to undertake a non-statutory review, known as an interim review. The process for an interim review is the same as for a statutory review.

3.2 To assist Members, an explanation of each of the terms used in a review is set out below:-

Polling District – a polling district is a geographical area into which wards and constituencies may be sub-divided – these are designated by the local authority;

Polling Place – a polling place is the building or area in which a polling stations will be located – these are decided by the local authority;

Polling Station – a polling station is the room(s) or area(s) within the polling place where the voting actually takes place – these are decided by the Returning Officer.

3.3 Any review should ensure that all electors have access to as reasonable facilities as practicable for the purpose of voting. Additionally, arrangements for polling districts, polling places and polling stations should take into account the provisions of the Equality Act 2010, Representation of the People Act 1983, Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 and the Elections Act 2022. Regard should also be had to the guidance published by the Electoral Commission.

3.4 Members will know that the scheduled ordinary date of elections in Telford & Wrekin is 6 May 2027 and it is important that this work is completed so as to ensure that we have suitable polling stations in place for that election. In addition, Members will recall that a Community Governance Review has recently been undertaken which made changes to some Town and Parish Council areas and this means that a review is needed to ensure that our Polling Districts, Polling Places and Polling Stations reflect the new arrangements which will take effect at the May 2027 elections.

4.0 Summary of Proposals

4.1 It is proposed that this review will consider the arrangements in respect of every Polling District, Polling Place and Polling Station with a particular focus on polling stations. At every election, polling station inspectors undertake a light touch review of each polling station that they visit. Through these reviews, the elections team has a broad understanding of any areas of focus for the review and these will be taken into account throughout this interim review.

4.2 The draft Terms of Reference attached at **Appendix A** explains in more detail, the matters that will form part of the review. They include:-

- The geographical boundary of polling districts;
- The names and references of polling districts;
- Whether or not there is a need to merge polling districts, create polling districts or delete polling districts;
- The polling place for each polling district;
- The suitability of polling places for each polling district;
- The suitability of polling stations within polling places;
- Any possible alternative polling places which may be more suitable or more convenient than existing polling places or stations;
- The suitability of any potential polling places and stations where there are any changes to polling districts.

4.3 It is important that, throughout the review, the Council seeks views from residents across the Borough to help the Committee inform its final decisions regarding the designation of Polling Districts and Polling Places.

4.4 Legislation and guidance sets out some statutory consultees but it is intended to extend this engagement to ensure that those who wish to have the ability to express their views. As well as seeking view from residents, it is intended that the review will include consultation with:-

- Local Members of Parliament;
- Shropshire Council's Returning Officer;
- Borough Councillors;
- Town and Parish Councils (via their Clerks);
- Polling Station Inspectors;
- Members of the Council's Making it Real Board;
- Community Groups across Telford & Wrekin, through the Community Services Team.

It is also proposed that this will be supported through a social media campaign and communication with local press outlets.

4.5 In addition, it is proposed that Committee members will be invited to visit some of our polling stations to understand the factors that are taken into account when undertaking a review.

4.6 It should be noted that, for many years, steps have been taken to avoid the use of schools as polling stations wherever possible. Whilst the legislation regarding elections provides the Returning Officer with the power to use schools, it has long been the case that we endeavour to explore all other options before resorting to the use of a school.

- 4.7 Additionally, wherever possible, the use of temporary portacabin style accommodation is avoided. This is partially due to the fact that portacabins can be in demand during key elections, the additional costs arising out of the use of such accommodation and the fact that they can present additional challenges in terms of accessibility and staff welfare. Regrettably, given the need to provide a polling station in every polling district, there are some occasions when the use of schools or portacabins is unavoidable due to a lack of suitable buildings in those areas. This interim review provides us with a further opportunity to address those instances where we haven't been able to avoid their use. It should be noted, however, that during some elections the planned polling stations have not been available for use and, therefore, it has been necessary to revert to either a school building or the use of a portacabin on a temporary basis.
- 4.8 The draft indicative timetable is attached at **Appendix B** to this report. Members will see that it is intended that the interim review is formally commenced with the publication of a "Notice of Review". It is intended that this will be published on, or around, Monday 23 February 2026 with the consultation closing 6 weeks later on Monday 6 April 2026. Officers are currently seeking to arrange a date for members of the Committee to visit Polling Stations on or around 25 February 2026 to enable feedback to be taken into account as part of the interim review.
- 4.9 After the consultation period has come to an end, a further report will be presented to the Committee before being reported to Full Council for adoption on 16 July 2026.

5.0 Financial Implications

- 5.1 The cost of this Interim Review will be delivered from existing budgets. There may be financial implications in respect of the cost of polling stations during an election. Further advice will be provided in respect of this when the proposals regarding polling districts, polling places and polling stations are known.

6.0 Legal and HR Implications

- 6.1 The legal implications are as set out in this report.

7.0 Ward Implications

- 7.1 The final arrangements decided upon by the Boundary Review Committee will affect every ward within the Borough. However, the Interim Review is needed to ensure that electoral arrangements remain convenient and polling stations are accessible for electors.

8.0 Health, Social and Economic Implications

- 8.1 Matters relating to health, social and economic implications will be considered when proposals are shaped as it will be necessary to have identified proposed polling places and polling stations. This will also be informed through the activity taking place during the consultation period, such as seeking views from disability representative groups.

9.0 Equality and Diversity Implications

9.1 Through the application of the legislation and guidance surrounding reviews of polling districts, polling places and polling stations, equality and diversity implications will be considered as proposals are shaped. Additionally, the consultation activity will allow more detailed consideration of such matters as proposals are shaped.

10.0 Climate Change and Environmental Implications

10.1 There are no direct environmental implications arising from this report.

11.0 Background Papers

There are no background papers relating to this report.

12.0 Appendices

- A Draft Terms of Reference
- B Draft Indicative Timetable

15.0 Report Sign Off

Signed off by	Date sent	Date signed off	Initials
Legal	03/02/2026	03/02/2026	RP
Finance	03/02/2026	03/02/2026	MLB

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Draft Terms of Reference

Interim Review of Polling Districts, Polling Places and Polling Stations within the Borough of Telford & Wrekin 2026

1. Introduction and Purpose

This Interim Review of Polling Districts, Polling Places and Polling Stations (“ the Review”) is undertaken by Telford & Wrekin Council in accordance with the provisions of the Representation of the People Act 1983 (as amended), the Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013 and taking into account the Elections Act 2022.

The purpose of the Review is to ensure that polling arrangements across the Telford and The Wrekin parliamentary constituencies enable electors to vote easily and conveniently, and that polling places are accessible to disabled electors.

This Review does not consider changes to parliamentary constituency boundaries, local government ward boundaries or town / parish council boundaries.

2. Definitions

To assist those wishing to make a representation, the following terms are used throughout this Review:-

Polling District – a geographical area into which wards and constituencies may be sub-divided – these are designated by the local authority;

Polling Place – the building or area in which a polling stations will be located – these are decided by the local authority;

Polling Station –the room(s) or area(s) within the polling place where the voting actually takes place – these are decided by the Returning Officer.

3. Scope of the Review

The Review will consider:-

All polling districts across the Borough of Telford & Wrekin, currently comprising 56 polling districts within the Telford constituency and 46 polling districts within The Wrekin constituency;

- The designation, and suitability, of polling places for each polling district;
- The location of polling stations within each polling place;
- The suitability and accessibility of polling stations;
- The geographical boundary of each polling district;
- The names and references of each polling district;
- Whether or not there is a need to merge, create, delete or otherwise alter polling districts;
- Any possible alternative polling places which may be more suitable or more convenient than existing polling places or stations; and
- The suitability of any potential polling places and stations where there are any changes made to polling districts.

The Review will not consider:-

- Parliamentary constituency boundaries;
- Borough Council boundaries;
- Borough ward boundaries;
- Boundaries of town or parish councils or their warding arrangements;
- Electoral law outside of the legislation which relates to polling district, polling place and polling station arrangements

4. Legal Framework

The Review is carried out in accordance with:-

- Representation of the People Act 1983;
- Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013;
- Elections Act 2022;
- Equality Act 2010 and associated guidance; and
- Electoral Commission guidance on polling district, polling place and polling station reviews.

5. Conduct of the Review

The Council will:-

- Publish a Notice of Interim Review at the commencement of the process;
- Publish a list of current Polling Districts and Polling Stations contained within them as part of the consultation process;
- Consult the Returning Officer on current and proposed arrangements;
- Invite representations from a variety of individuals and organisations including:-
 - Local MPs;
 - Returning Officer at Shropshire Council;
 - Electors;
 - Councillors;
 - Town / Parish Councils;
 - Political parties;
 - Disability representative groups;
 - Community groups; and
 - Any other relevant stakeholders
- Publish representations received, including those from the Returning Officer;
- Publish final proposals;
- Publish an updated electoral register based upon the outcome of the Review.

6. Assessment Criteria

In assessing polling districts, polling places and polling stations, the Review will consider:-

- Accessibility for all electors and, particularly, those with disabilities;
- Convenience for electors within each polling district;
- Transport links and proximity;
- Size, layout and suitability of premises;
- Health and safety considerations including staff welfare provisions; and
- Availability and sustainability of premises

7. Consultation

The Council will undertake a public consultation over a six-week period, the dates of which will be set out in the Notice of Interim Review.

Once the consultation period opens, representations can be submitted:-

Via email at reviews@telford.gov.uk

Or via letter addressed to the Returning Officer at the address below:-

Telford & Wrekin Council Elections Team
Darby House
Lawn Central
Telford
TF3 4JA

All representations will be considered before final recommendations are made. Those making a representation should be aware that they will be published. Those submitted by anybody acting in an official capacity (MP, Councillor, Returning Officer) will be published in full, including the name of the person making the representation.

Those representations submitted by an organisation, including a political party, will be published with the identity of the organisation included (with the name of any individual representing the organisation removed).

8. Timetable

The timetable governing this Review is set out below:-

Activity	Indicative Date
Publication of Notice of Interim Review and commencement of consultation	Monday 23 February 2026
Consultation Period ends	Monday 6 April 2026 at 23:59
Boundary Review Committee meeting to consider draft proposals	w/c 26 April 2026 or w/c 3 May 2026
Boundary Review Committee meeting (if needed)	w/c 25 May 2026 or w/c 1 June 2026
Full Council meeting for adoption of new arrangements for Polling Districts, Polling Places and Polling Stations	Thursday 16 July 2026
Publish electoral register (including any new or amended polling districts)	Tuesday 1 December 2026

Scheduled all out elections to new arrangements	Thursday 6 May 2027
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9. Decision Making

Final recommendations will be presented to the Boundary Review Committee before being considered at a meeting of the Full Council on 16 July 2026.

The Council will publish its decision, together with reasons for reaching that decision and any supporting evidence.

10. Implementation

Any changes approved will be implemented by the Electoral Registration Officer in accordance with statutory requirements.

Electors will be notified of any changes prior to the next scheduled election. This will be by way of publication of the outcome of the Review on the Council's website and through the information regarding polling stations included upon any Poll Card that is distributed by the Returning Officer.

The arrangements that are confirmed through this Review will take effect at the election on 6 May 2027. Any elections that take place prior to that date will be on the current polling district, polling place and polling station arrangements.

11. Appeals

Any person or body may make representations to the Electoral Commission if they consider the Review has failed to meet statutory requirements or accessibility obligations.

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Draft Indicative Timetable

Interim Review of Polling Districts, Polling Places and Polling Stations 2026

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