

TELFORD & WREKIN COUNCIL

BOUNDARY REVIEW COMMITTEE – 3 OCTOBER 2019

REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICTS, POLLING PLACES AND POLLING STATIONS

REPORT OF THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR: GOVERNANCE, PROCUREMENT & COMMISSIONING

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 To review polling districts, polling places and polling stations in accordance with the Representation of the People Act 1983 (as amended by the Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013).

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 To delegate authority to the Assistant Director: Governance, Procurement and Commissioning, to advise of polling places to be used for the next election, when called, following a review of all documents received during consultation. Consultation documentation attached to the report inviting Members comments on those proposals.
- 2.2 To approve changes to polling places with immediate effect and changes to the register from 30th November 2019.

3. SUMMARY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

COMMUNITY IMPACT	Do these proposals contribute to specific Priority Plan objective(s)?	
	Yes/No	
	Will the proposals impact on specific groups of people?	
	Yes/No	All electors in the Borough.
TARGET COMPLETION/ DELIVERY DATE	30 November 2019.	
FINANCIAL/VALUE FOR MONEY IMPACT	Yes/No	The financial impact of undertaking this statutory piece of work will be met from existing Elections Team budgets and ancillary costs (printing etc). No additional finance resource is required.

LEGAL ISSUES	Yes/No	<p>Authority is delegated to Boundary Review Committee to deal with all matters relating to the polling districts, polling places and polling stations review.</p> <p>The Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013 introduced a change to the timing of compulsory reviews of UK Parliamentary polling districts and polling places. The next compulsory review must be completed by 31 January 2020.</p> <p>Legal advice will be given with the proposal decision making process during Boundary Review Committee meeting on 3 October 2019.</p>
OTHER IMPACTS, RISKS & OPPORTUNITIES	Yes/No	<p>The opportunities and risks associated with any change following on from this consultation have been identified and assessed. Arrangements would be put in place to manage the risks and maximise the opportunities that have been identified if required.</p>
IMPACT ON SPECIFIC WARDS	Yes/No	<p>Borough wide review has the potential to impact on all Borough wards.</p>

4. **SUMMARY**

- 4.1 The Representation of the People Act 1983 (as amended by the Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013) requires the Council to conduct a review of the polling districts, polling places and polling stations. This report asks the Committee to review the consultation responses and proposed polling places to be used for future elections.

5. **BACKGROUND**

- 5.1 The procedure for a review of polling districts, polling places and polling stations is laid down in the Representation of People Act 1983.

The Act also lays down the guiding principles in a review. These include ensuring that all electors in a constituency have such reasonable facilities for voting as are practicable and that every polling place is accessible to electors who are disabled. The guidelines go on to state that every parish should be in its own polling district, and that every polling place should be in its own polling district.

The Council initiated the review by publishing a Notice of start of review on 1 July 2019. The Council then published the proposals made by the Returning

Officer for alterations. Comments were invited during a consultation period from 1 July to 30 July 2019 from electors, including those with varying disabilities. At the end of the consultation, the Council considered the comments received and will adopt an arrangement of polling districts and polling places for a period of five years, after which there is a further duty to review. Members should note that, should a further electoral review be undertaken at Borough and/ or Parish level this could necessitate a further review before five years.

The Returning Officer's draft proposals and interactive web based map of existing polling stations was the subject of the consultation. Copies of the document were deposited at Addenbrooke House for inspection, along with a copy at Southwater and on the Council's website. Copies were sent to Members of Parliament for Telford and Wrekin parliamentary constituencies, each Borough Councillor and to each parish council.

6. **DEFINITION OF TERMS**

Polling District – A polling district is a geographical area created by the sub-division of a UK Parliamentary constituency for the purposes of a UK Parliamentary election. In England, each parish is to be a separate polling district. UK Parliamentary constituency boundaries cannot be changed by this review.

Polling Place – A polling place is the building or area in which polling stations will be selected by the Returning Officer. A polling place within a polling district must be designated so that polling stations are within easy reach of all electors from across the polling district.

Polling Station – A polling station is the room or area within the polling place where voting takes place. Unlike polling districts and polling places which are fixed by the local authority, polling stations are chosen by the relevant Returning Officer for the election. There may be more than one polling station in a polling place.

7. **WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?**

7.1 The timetable for this Review is as follows:

Action	Timetable	Outline of action
Final proposals considered at Boundary Review Committee	3 October 2019	Report to Members showing all correspondence from consultation to review and finalise at this meeting.

To produce new registers for the Telford and the Wrekin Parliamentary constituencies	1 st December 2019	
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8. **INFORMATION ATTACHED**

- 8.1 Appendix A: Consultation comments received by email and responses
Appendix B: Proposed changes to polling places to be used for future elections.
Appendix C: List of polling stations to be used with immediate effect..

9. **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

The Electoral Commission – Review of Polling Districts, Polling Places and Polling Stations

Available at: <https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a/electoral-administrator/polling-place-reviews>

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