Telford & Wrekin Co-operative Council

Protect, care and invest to create a better borough

Borough of Telford and Wrekin

Boundary Review Committee

9 November 2026

Interim Review of Polling Districts, Polling Places and Polling Stations

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Cabinet Member:	Cllr Zona Hannington – Cabinet Member for Finance and Resident Services.
Lead Director:	Anthea Lowe – Director: Policy & Governance
Service Area:	Policy & Governance
Report Author:	Jon Power, Head of Policy Insight, Partnerships & Elections.
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Wards Affected:	Church Aston & Lilleshall, Dawley & Aqueduct, Ercall, Ironbridge Gorge, Lawley, Madeley & Sutton Hill, Malinslee & Dawley Bank, Muxton, Newport South, Oakengates & Ketley Bank, Priorslee, The Nedge and Woodside
Key Decision:	Not Key Decision
Forward Plan:	Not Applicable
Report considered by:	Boundary Review Committee – 9 November 2026

1.0 Recommendations for decision/noting:

It is recommended that the Boundary Review Committee:

1.1 Notes the outcome of the review and consultation process.

1.2 Considers the proposed revised polling district, polling place and polling station arrangements set out in Appendix A.

1.3 Recommends that full council approves the revised polling district, polling place and polling station arrangements as presented in Appendix A, Appendix B and Appendix C.

1.4 Notes that the (Acting) Returning Officer will determine the number and location of polling stations within the designated polling places, and make such operational adjustments as are necessary for the effective conduct of elections, in accordance with electoral law.

2.0 Purpose of Report

2.1 The purpose of this report is to present findings, to present proposals arising out of the consultation, and seek that the Committee recommends to Full Council for adoption the proposals contained.

2.2 The proposals in this report seek to ensure that polling arrangements remain compliant with legislative requirements, reflect changes arising from the Community Governance Review 2025 and, where reasonably practicable, provide electors with accessible and convenient facilities for voting.

3.0 Background

3.1 Under the Representation of the People Act 1983, local authorities are responsible for dividing their area into polling districts and designating polling places and polling stations for those districts.

- 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.

3.2 In carrying out the review, the Council must ensure:

- Each parish forms a separate polling district unless special circumstances apply;
- Every polling district has a designated polling place;
- Polling places are accessible and convenient for electors;
- Disabled electors have, so far as is reasonably practicable, the same opportunity to vote independently and in secret as other electors.

3.3 Whilst local authorities are required to review their polling districts, polling places and polling stations at least once every five years, this interim review was considered necessary as a result of changes to town and parish boundaries arising from the Community Governance Review, which will come into effect from April 2027.

Review Process

3.4 The interim review process is set out in statute and commenced with publication of a formal notice of review and supporting consultation documentation. This was published on 13 February 2026.

3.5 Consultation was undertaken with:

- Members of Parliament;
- Town and Parish Councils;
- Political parties;
- Disability representative groups;
- Staff groups
- Community organisations;
- Electors;
- Shropshire Council
- Shropshire Association of Local Council
- Acting Returning Office.

3.6 Site visits were undertaken to polling places, and stations, across the Borough to assess:

- Accessibility;
- Suitability of facilities;
- Voter experience;
- Staff welfare arrangements;
- Availability and resilience of venues.

3.7 Members of the Making it Real Board participated in polling place visits to provide lived experience feedback regarding accessibility.

Outcome of Consultation and Site Visits

3.8 The review found that the majority of polling places continue to provide suitable accommodation for elections and meet the required standards.

3.9 A number of locations were identified where improvements are desirable, including:

- Enhanced ramp provision;
- Improved lighting;
- Better directional signage;
- Altered internal layouts;
- Improved facilities for polling station staff.

3.10 Feedback from disability representatives emphasised the importance of:

- Accessible entrances;
- Suitable toilet facilities;
- Adequate manoeuvring space for wheelchair users (both manually propelled and mechanical wheelchairs);

- Availability of accessible polling booths;
- Providing a dignified and independent voting experience.

3.11 The review also identified a limited number of polling districts where boundary amendments are required to align with revised parish boundaries resulting from the Community Governance Review 2025.

3.12 The review also found several areas where polling districts can be merged because they are within the same parish or parish ward and use the same polling place and as such there is little practical benefit in retaining them as separate polling districts.

3.13 In addition, the review identified a number of polling stations where the number of registered voters (excluding postal voters) exceeds the recommended maximum ordinarily used for electoral planning purposes. To address this, an additional polling station will be created in the polling place and the register split between the two polling stations.

Proposed Changes

3.14 The proposals seek to:

- Align polling district boundaries with approved parish arrangements;
- Maintain convenient voting locations for electors; and,
- Improve accessibility wherever practicable.

3.15 Full details of proposed polling district, polling place and polling stations changes are contained within Appendix A.

3.16 Maps showing proposed polling district boundaries are contained within Appendix B.

3.17 The changes to polling districts proposed within Appendix A requires the renaming of some polling districts. To ensure this is consistent across the borough, it is proposed that a new naming scheme is adopted based on a 4-letter code which is then applied across the borough.

- First letter is parliamentary e.g. T or W.
- Letters two and three Borough ward e.g. Brookside BR
- Fourth letter parish – Stirchley & Brookside A

3.18 Based on this convention, the polling districts across Stirchley & Brookside Parish Council would be coded as follows:

Code	Parliamentary		Borough		Parish		Label
TTNC	Telford	T	The Nedge	TN	Stirchley & Brookside	C	Nedge-Stirchley-Holmer
TTND	Telford	T	The Nedge	TN	Stirchley & Brookside	D	Nedge-Stirchley-Stirchley (part of)
TTNE	Telford	T	The Nedge	TN	Stirchley & Brookside	E	Nedge-Stirchley-Stirchley (part of)

3.19 Full details of proposed polling district name changes are contained within Appendix C which presents a full list of proposed polling districts and polling places for adoption from April 2027.

Next Steps

3.20 Following consideration by the Boundary Review Committee:

- Final recommendations will be prepared for approval by Full Council incorporating any necessary amendments.
- The new arrangements will be implemented in readiness for April 2027 when new and revised parish arrangements are implemented.

4.0 Summary of main proposals

4.1 The proposals are to align polling district boundaries with revised parish boundaries, merge suitable districts, improve accessibility, add polling stations where needed and introduce consistent four-letter district codes across the borough.

5.0 Alternative Options

5.1 The proposed polling place and polling district arrangements need to be implemented by April 2027 in readiness for the May 2027 local elections. Failure to implement these changes would put delivery of those elections at risk.

6.0 Key Risks

6.1 The key risks associated with the proposals in this report are delays or errors in implementing revised polling districts by April 2027, addressing accessibility issues in specific polling places in readiness and identifying new polling placed in readiness for May 20227 local elections.

7.0 Council Priorities

7.1 The report supports the Council's vision to "Protect, care and invest to create a better borough" and Vision 2032's focus on inclusion and tackling inequalities in three main ways:

- **Every child, young person and adult lives well in their community:** Accessible polling facilities help eligible electors, particularly disabled residents, participate independently and with dignity.
- **All neighbourhoods are a great place to live:** Convenient local voting locations and boundaries aligned with parish arrangements support community participation.
- **A community-focused, innovative council providing efficient, effective and quality services:** the proposed amendments to electoral arrangements support responsive and effective election delivery..

8.0 Financial Implications

8.1 There is currently no funding identified to cover any improvement/accessibility works detailed in this report. These costs would need to be met from the Elections budgets. Scheme's will need to be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

9.0 Legal and HR Implications

9.1 The Council has a statutory duty under the Representation of the People Act 1983 to keep polling districts and polling places under review, having regard to accessibility and the reasonable needs of electors. The proposed arrangements have been informed by consultation and accessibility considerations and must also be considered in accordance with the Council's duties under the Equality Act 2010. The Boundary Review Committee will make recommendations from the interim review for approval by Council. Operational decisions relating to polling stations remain the responsibility of the relevant Returning Officer.

10.0 Ward Implications

10.1 The final arrangements decided upon by the Boundary Review Committee may have implications for particular Borough wards.

11.0 Health, Social and Economic Implications

11.1 The communities served by the current Town and Parish Councils have diverse needs, the location of polling stations is important in terms of economic implications and travelling distance, particularly in those areas where the socio-economic data indicates deprivation as turnout is also lower in those area.

12.0 Equality and Diversity Implications

12.1 Accessibility has been a central consideration throughout the review process.

12.2 The Council has engaged with individuals with lived experience of disability and has considered the accessibility of all polling places against Electoral Commission guidance and statutory requirements.

12.3 Any remaining accessibility issues identified through the review will be addressed prior to implementation where reasonably practicable.

13.0 Climate Change, Biodiversity and Environmental Implications

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

14.0 Background Papers

1 Interim Review of Polling Districts, Polling Places and Polling Stations Terms of Reference
2 Interim Review of Polling Districts, Polling Places and Polling Stations Consultation Pack

15.0 Appendices

A Appendix A Full details of proposed polling district and polling place changes
B Appendix B Maps showing proposed polling district boundaries
C Appendix C

16.0 Report Sign Off

Signed off by	Date sent	Date signed off	Initials
Legal	03/11/2026	04/11/2026	DTW
Finance	03/11/2026	05/11/2026	ER