

Polling District and Polling Place Review Consultation

Briefing Note No. 19-019

Service: Electoral Services
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1. The council is required by the Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013 to undertake a compulsory review of UK Parliamentary polling districts and polling places which must be started and completed between 1 October 2018 and 31 January 2020 (inclusive).
2. The Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013 amended the Representation of the People Act 1983 to require the council to undertake regular reviews of both polling districts and polling places within its area. The differences between a district, place and station are:
 - A **polling district** is a geographical sub-division of an electoral area, (an electoral area being a UK Parliamentary constituency, a European Parliamentary electoral region, a parish, parish ward or an electoral division).
 - 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.
 - A **polling station** is the actual area where the process of voting takes place, and must be located within the polling place designated for the particular polling district. The Returning Officer for the particular election must provide a sufficient number of polling stations, and allocate the electors to those polling stations in such manner as he or she thinks the most convenient.
3. The purpose of such a review is ensure that all electors have reasonably practicable facilities for voting and that polling places are reasonably accessible to electors who are disabled. The review will need to be completed by 31 January 2020.
4. The Electoral Review Committee will oversee the review, and has endorsed the timetable overleaf accordingly:

Activity	Date
Preliminary review commenced	December 2018
Information was gathered from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Polling station venues • External reviews • Visiting Officers on 23 May 2019 	December 2018
Information was provided to all Area Boards	January / February 2019
Gather and analyse evidence, including representations from Area Boards and electoral forecasts.	January to July 2019
Report to the Committee on the outcome of the preliminary review, including boundary maps and electorates	8 July 2019
Publish a notice of the holding of the review	10 July 2019
Publish ARO representation	10 July 2019
Consultation period	12 July 2019 to 9 September 2019
Consultation materials forwarded for comment to key stakeholders including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wiltshire disability groups • Wiltshire carers groups • Elected representatives and • Parish councils 	15 July 2019
Committee to consider draft recommendations	Late September
Full Council to consider recommendation from Committee	15 October 2019
Revised register	1 December 2019

- The notice of the review was published on 10 July 2019 at [this link](#) and is also attached to this briefing note.
- A consultation page has been prepared at [this link](#). The page includes the timetable for the review and the [representation of the Acting Returning Officer \(ARO\)](#) on each polling district and polling place. The document is very large, so when viewing in pdf or through a browser it is necessary to zoom to view all the text. The districts can be viewed in electoral division order from Page 9. Existing polling districts can be viewed at [this link](#)
- Members, parish councils and the public can respond by [filling in this online form](#), or by emailing committee@wiltshire.gov.uk or using the response form included at [this link](#) and writing in to Democratic Services, County Hall, Trowbridge, BA14 8JN.
- Once the consultation is concluded and comments considered, draft recommendations for each place and district will be prepared for consideration by the Electoral Review Committee, and then Full Council.