

Wiltshire Council

Electoral Review Committee

12 November 2020

Polling District and Polling Place Review

Purpose

1. To note the schedule of necessary polling district changes for Committee approval due to the new unitary boundaries that take effect from May 2021 and any approved Community Governance Reviews completed and approved in 2020.

Background

2. Following the Wiltshire Council electoral boundary review an Order was made in March 2020 scheduling the new unitary divisions and parish/parish wards affected by the new boundaries. In addition to this, several Community Governance Reviews (CGRs) took place with final recommendations approved in September 2020. Both reviews require necessary changes to existing polling districts so that the polling districts are coterminous with the new parish/parish ward and unitary division boundaries. This is required to facilitate the organisation and running of the May 2021 unitary and parish elections on the new boundaries.
3. The publication of the revised register on 1 December will be based on the new electoral divisions.
4. Where existing unitary councilors request a copy of the register from 1 December for the area they currently represent, it is possible they will receive a register containing electors for another unitary division due to the structure of the new polling districts straddling across the existing unitary divisions.

Main Considerations

5. To remove the smaller polling districts created by the 2016 CGRs now that the parish and unitary boundaries will be aligned by merging them with neighbouring polling districts.
6. To amend existing polling districts so they are coterminous with the parish/parish ward and unitary boundaries whilst also having regard for parliamentary boundaries.
7. To maintain the existing polling district structure as far as possible.
8. Where polling districts straddle the new divisions, the part that overlaps into the new division is merged with the adjacent polling district for the new division unless this part is sizeable enough to require its own polling district. The electors that are merged with the adjacent polling district will vote at the polling station for that polling district and this may be different to where they previously voted.
9. To recode and rename the amended polling districts so they describe the new electoral area.
10. To ensure there are as limited changes to polling stations for electors as possible.

Appendix C illustrates that only 16 out of 477 polling districts have been relocated to a

different polling station.

11. The polling districts have been created on the assumption that the LGBCE agrees to the unitary boundary division amendments as per the approved CGR Recommendations report August 2020. If they do not agree to alter the unitary boundaries, or the decision is not made before 1 December 2020, then there will need to be additional polling districts created to reflect this for those areas affected, as per **Appendix D**.

Safeguarding Implications

12. There are no safeguarding implications.

Public Health Implications

13. There are no public health implications.

Procurement Implications

14. There are no procurement implications.

Equalities Implications

15. There are no equalities implications.

Environmental Implications

16. There are no environmental implications.

Financial Implications

17. There are no financial implications.

Legal Implications

18. The Council will publish the electoral register on the 1 December 2020 using the Wiltshire (Electoral Changes) Order 2020 as amended by The Wiltshire Council (Reorganisation of Community Governance) Order 2020. If LGBCE approval for the amendment to the electoral division boundaries is not received by 1 February 2021 then the May 2021 Wiltshire Council unitary elections will be run on the boundaries as per the Wiltshire (Electoral Changes) Order 2020.

Proposal

19. The Committee is asked to:

- 1) note Appendix A detailing the revised polling districts to each of the new unitary divisions in unitary division order.
- 2) note Appendix B detailing the revised polling districts to each of the parishes in parish/parish ward order.
- 3) note Appendix C detailing all the revised polling districts and the allocated polling station and any relevant comments.
- 4) Note Appendix D detailing the additional polling districts required in the event the LGBCE do not amend the Electoral Divisions before 1 December 2020

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Appendices

Appendix A – Revised Polling Districts (Electoral Divisions)

Appendix B – Revised Polling Districts (Parishes)

Appendix C – All revised Polling Districts and Polling Places

Appendix D – Additional Polling Districts (Bowerhill/Wilcot)