

Area Board Briefing Note

Service:	Electoral Services
Date prepared:	27 September 2023
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Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places 2023 - Consultation

Wiltshire Council is carrying out a review of the polling districts and polling places in Wiltshire, as we are required to do by law.

The Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013 introduced a duty on Local Authorities to 'carry out and complete' reviews of polling districts and polling places every five years. The next review must be completed between 1 October 2023 and 31 January 2025.

The purpose of the review is to ensure that all polling districts and polling places are, as far as possible, suitable and accessible to all voters.

Polling districts

The Council is responsible for dividing its area into polling districts for the purpose of UK Parliamentary elections. The arrangements made for the UK Parliamentary elections are also used at all other elections and referendums. Each parish, unless there are special circumstances, must be a separate polling district. When designating polling districts, we seek to ensure that all the electors have such reasonable facilities for voting as far as is practicable.

Polling places

A polling place is the designated area, polling district, or building in which polling stations will be selected by the (Acting) Returning Officer.

Polling stations

The polling station is the physical place in which polling takes place. The (Acting) Returning Officer decides on the location of the polling stations.

Steps for this review

The public consultation period will commence on the 2 October 2023 and will end on the 31 October 2023.

A webpage has been set up providing further information including:

- A list of current polling arrangements by unitary division area including the (Acting) Returning Officers comments and proposed changes
- An interactive map to view existing arrangements and any proposed changes
- An online form to make comments/representations.

Please note the review cannot consider changes to a parliamentary constituency, Wiltshire Council unitary division or parish and parish ward boundaries.

The review will be based on current constituency boundaries but will also have regard for the new parliamentary constituencies. The new boundaries will take effect for the next parliamentary elections that must be held before January 2025.

The final recommendations will be considered by the Electoral Review Committee in Mid November 2023 and, if approved will be implemented for the 1 December 2023 register of electors.

Timeline for the review

Date	
2 October 2023	Formal notice of the review
2 October 2023	Publish (Acting) Returning Officer's comments
2 October 2023	Commencement of public consultation period
31 October 2023	End of public consultation period
Mid November 2023	Final proposals considered by Electoral Review Committee

Commenting on the review

Representations can be made via:

- Online response form on the website:
<https://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/article/8167/Polling-District-and-Polling-Place-Review-2023>
- Emailing: pollingreview@wiltshire.gov.uk
- Or by post to:

Polling Review, Electoral Services, Wiltshire Council, County Hall, Bythesea Road,
Trowbridge BA14 8JN