



Electoral Services Section
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Date : 2nd October 2023

To: Town and Parish Clerks

**Staffordshire Moorlands District Council
Notice of Polling District and Polling Places Review**

Notice is hereby given that in accordance with Sections 18A to 18E and Schedule A1 of the Representation of the People Act 1983 and the Review of Polling District and Polling Places (Parliamentary Elections) Regulations 2006 Staffordshire Moorlands District Council (the Council) is to carry out a compulsory review of its polling districts and polling places

“The Parliamentary Boundary Commission published its revised proposals for new constituency boundaries. This review takes into account the new boundaries subject to them being approved by Order of the Privy Council”

Staffordshire Moorlands District Council are undertaking a review of Polling Districts and Polling Places in order to ensure that polling stations are located in the most suitable place.

Criteria to be followed during this review

- A policy of “minimal disruption” to electors
- All electors to be given reasonable facilities for voting based on Electoral Commission Guidance
- Ideally, the polling station will be within its own Ward and Polling District
- The number of electors will be allocated to polling stations will be based on Electoral Commission guidance
- Any new premise/polling station identified should have good access for people with disabilities
- Where possible, natural boundaries are to be used e.g. railways, major road, waterways etc.
- The Acting Returning Officer has a preference to use, wherever possible, any room in a school maintained or assisted by a local education authority, or a school in respect of which grants are made out of monies provided by parliament to the person or body responsible for the management of the school (this includes Academies). This use of schools guarantees that rooms are available each year, even at short notice, and are free of charge, though extra charges for heating, lighting and caretakers etc. are met by the Acting Returning Officer. Schools have good access and are usually in a prominent position within the polling district and are well known landmark buildings.

How the review is conducted

- The Council formally announce that the compulsory review is to take place.
- The Council publishes the Acting Returning Officer's proposals and invites comments.
- Interested parties such as local political parties and councillors will be consulted and views are invited from residents as well as those with specialist knowledge and interest in issues around accessibility.
- The Council consults the Acting Returning Officer who makes representations on existing and proposed polling arrangements.
- These are considered before final recommendations are made.
- The relevant Committee will approve or reject any new changes to polling district boundaries.

The Electoral Commission has no role in the review process itself, but it can consider comments if people do not think the review has met the reasonable requirements of electors or taken sufficient account of the needs of disabled electors.

Timetable for this review

2 nd October 2023	Publication of Notice and commencement of the review
2 nd October 2023	Council proposals published
2 nd October 2023	Commencement of consultation
10 th November 2023	End of formal consultation
By 24 th November 2023	Consider responses
1 st December 2023	Published revised register
15 th January 2024	Preparation and Publication of the (Acting) Returning Officer's comments and proposals
5 th February 2024	Deadline for receipt of public comments on the (Acting) Returning Officer's comments
8 th March 2024	Final proposals considered by the Council's Committee

It should be noted that the number of electors shown on the report includes electors with postal votes who will not attend the polling station in person unless they cancel their postal vote in the future.

Making comments

Where the Acting Returning Officer feels that the current arrangements are reasonable, he will not propose to make any changes. However, where representation or comments have been received, he will review the current position and will make recommendations for consultation where appropriate and where circumstances require. The intention is not to make changes for change's sake.

If someone wishes to make comments where they are able to suggest an appropriate alternative, they should contact the Elections Office as soon as possible, in order to allow further and wider consultation. Please complete the questionnaire available from the website or the Elections Office giving details of the:

- Ward and Polling District
- Name and address of polling station
- Suggested alternative polling place
- Reason for change

Comments do not have to be restricted to alternative proposals; comments that support the existing arrangements are welcome in order to receive a balance of opinions.

All comments should be made in writing to:

Elections Office, Moorlands House, Stockwell Street, Leek ST13 6HQ

Or e-mail to electoral.services@staffs Moorlands.gov.uk with the words "Review of Polling Places 2023" in the heading

All representations received will be published on the website for public inspection on completion of the review process.

Yours sincerely

Andrew Stokes
Chief Executive