

Polling District and Polling Place Review in Wiltshire

Briefing Note No. 23-26

Service: Electoral Services

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Introduction

We wanted to provide you with an update on the Polling District and Polling Place Review in Wiltshire, which is due to get underway soon and something we are required to do by law.

Background

The review will help determine that all of Wiltshire's polling districts, places and stations are, as far as possible, suitable and accessible to all voters.

The Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013 introduced a change to the timing of compulsory reviews of UK Parliamentary polling districts and polling places. The last compulsory review took place in 2019.

Definitions of polling districts, polling places and polling stations for the purposes of this review

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 should have at least one polling district. When designating polling districts, the council seeks to ensure that all the electors have such reasonable facilities for voting as far as practicable.

Polling places

A polling place is the building, area or polling district 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.

Consultation details

A public consultation will commence from 2 October until 31 October 2023. The consultation will be available to complete at www.wiltshire.gov.uk/polling-review. People can also call 0300 456 0112 to find out where they can view a paper copy.

All representations submitted will be considered before final recommendations are made.

Next steps

Following analysis of the feedback of the consultation and final proposals will be considered by the Electoral Review Committee at a future meeting.

More information

More information can be found www.wiltshire.gov.uk/polling-review. Alternatively, if you have any additional questions, please don't hesitate to email elections@wiltshire.gov.uk.