

TELFORD & WREKIN COUNCIL

BOUNDARY REVIEW COMMITTEE – 29TH JANUARY 2015

REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICTS AND POLLING PLACES

REPORT OF ASSISTANT DIRECTOR: LAW, DEMOCRACY & PEOPLE SERVICES

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 To present final proposals for a review of the polling districts and the polling places in the two parliamentary constituencies in the Borough in accordance with the Representation of the People Act 1983 (as amended by the Electoral Administration Act 2006.)

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 For Members to consider and adopt polling districts and polling places in the borough contained in the Returning Officer's Recommendations document attached to the report.

3. SUMMARY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

COMMUNITY IMPACT	Do these proposals contribute to specific Priority Plan objective(s)?	
	No	
	Will the proposals impact on specific groups of people?	
	Yes	All Electors in the Borough
TARGET COMPLETION/ DELIVERY DATE	End of January 2015	
FINANCIAL/VALUE FOR MONEY IMPACT	Yes	The process to be followed is prescribed and will involve officer time and other associated costs, such as postages and printing. These costs will be met from within existing resources.
LEGAL ISSUES	Yes	Authority is delegated to Boundary Review Committee to deal with all matters relating to dividing constituencies in to Polling Districts The Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013 introduced a

		<p>change to the timing of compulsory reviews of UK Parliamentary polling districts and polling places. The next compulsory review must now be started and completed between 1 October 2013 and 31 January 2015 (inclusive).</p> <p>The Council must comply with the review process set out in sections 18A-18E and Schedule A1 of the Representation of the People Act 1983, as amended by the 2006 Act.</p> <p>The Review of Polling District and Polling Places (Parliamentary Elections) Regulations 2006 requires that the council publishes the comments that it receives during the review.</p>
OTHER IMPACTS, RISKS & OPPORTUNITIES	Yes	The opportunities and risks associated with this decision/option/project have been identified and assessed. Arrangements will be put in place to manage the risks and maximise the opportunities that have been identified.
IMPACT ON SPECIFIC WARDS	Yes	Borough wide review has the potential to impact on all Borough wards

4. **SUMMARY**

The amended Representation of the People Act 1983 requires the Council to conduct a review of the polling districts into which our parliamentary constituencies are divided. The Act also requires the Council to review its polling places and polling stations. This report asks the Committee to agree that the Electoral Services Manager can initiate the review.

5. **PREVIOUS MINUTES**

None for this Review

6. INFORMATION

6.1 Background

The procedure for a review of polling districts, polling places and polling stations is laid down in the Representation of the People Act.

The Council initiated the review by publishing a Notice of Start of Review. The Council then published the proposals made by the Returning Officer for alterations. Comments were invited during a consultation period. At the end of this consultation, the Council considers the comments received and adopts an arrangement of polling districts and polling places for a period of four years, after which there is a further duty to review.

The review process has been outlined in paragraphs 5.1-2 above and in greater detail in the Background Information and the Returning Officer's Recommendations document appended to this report.

There are a number of changes to the original proposals

- Polling District WAC (Apley Castle) will continue to vote at the nearby Leegomery Community Centre.
- Polling District TDA has been split, forming a new Polling District TDP, allowing electors to vote more conveniently at Dawley Christian Centre.
- TDZ electors will now vote at Southall School (Dawley & Aqueduct -Langley South) rather than using the portacabin at Beechwood Road.
- THC electors (Lightmoor) will now vote at the Oak Tree Centre which is closer to where they live. THL electors (Lawley) will now vote at Lawley & Overdale Parish council offices rather than Lawley Community Centre.
- Voters from Polling District TIH (Ironbridge Gorge – Hilltop) and TMD (Madeley & Sutton Hill – Hilltop) will vote together at Woodlands Primary School. The existing station at Abraham Darby is very small and the Returning Officer is of the view that it would be more clear and convenient to send electors in these areas to the same polling station in order to avoid confusion.
- Electors in Polling District TLE currently vote at Dawley Baptist Church, the recommendations are for them to vote at this venue or at the TA Centre Cavan Drive. The Returning Officer is currently awaiting a response on the latter venue.
- WMH electors (Humbers) previously voted at Turreff Hall, Donnington. The recommendations are that they should vote at this venue or at Muxton Community Centre. However, the Returning Officer has some concerns over space available at the latter venue as it is already a double polling station.

6.2 Equality and Diversity

The Act requires that, so far as is reasonable and practicable, every polling place should be accessible to electors who are disabled. The Act states that the Authority must have regard to the accessibility to disabled persons of potential polling stations.

7. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Sections 18A-18E, Representation of the People Act (1983) (as amended by the Electoral Administration Act (2006))

The Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places (Parliamentary Elections) Regulations (2006) (SI2006/2965)

The Electoral Commission – Circular EC19/2010 – Reviews of polling districts, polling places and polling stations (30 July 2010)

The Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013

LGBCE Final recommendations Boundary Review of Telford & Wrekin
<https://www.lgbce.org.uk/current-reviews/west-midlands/shropshire/telford-and-wrekin-fer>

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