



**Newark & Sherwood District Council
Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places 2019**

Consultation Document

August 2019

Background

Section 16 of the Electoral Administration Act 2006 introduced a number of changes to the Representation of the People Act 1983 in respect of the way in which reviews of polling districts and polling places must be carried out.

The most important change to note is that by 31 January 2020 every relevant authority must have undertaken and completed a review of all the polling districts and polling places in its area. This consultation document has been produced as part of the review in the Newark and Sherwood area.

The last review of polling districts and places was completed in December 2014.

Definitions

Polling Districts

A polling district is a geographical area created by the division of a constituency or local government area such as a ward.

As the relevant authority, the District Council is responsible for deciding the boundaries of polling districts and must therefore seek to ensure that all electors in the area, have reasonable facilities for voting as are practicable in the circumstances.

In England, each parish must be a separate polling district, although larger parishes can be divided into two or more districts. A parish must not be in a polling district which has a part of a different parish within it, or any un-parished part of the local authority within it.

Polling Places

A polling place is a geographical location in which a polling station is situated. Although it is usual to have one polling station in one polling place, there are situations where several polling stations are located in one polling place.

As the relevant authority, the Council is responsible for determining polling places and must therefore make sure that the polling places are accessible to all electors and must take into account the accessibility needs of disabled people.

Polling Station

A polling station is the actual area where the process of voting takes place and must be located in the polling place designated for the particular polling district. The polling station may consist of a whole room or in certain circumstances a designated area within a room or building.

The Returning Officer (Acting, Deputy or Local) for the particular election is responsible for providing a sufficient number of polling stations and allotting electors to those polling stations.

The Review Process

The timetable for the review is set out below: -

Publication of notice and consultation document – consultation opens	Monday 9 September 2019
Closing date for representations	Friday 25 October 2019
Report on representations to General Purposes Committee General Purposes to recommend a final scheme to the Full Council	Thursday 14 November 2019
Full Council to agree final scheme	Tuesday 17 December 2019

The publication of this consultation document represents the first stage of the review. The existing schedule of polling districts and polling places are detailed in this document.

You are invited to comment on the existing scheme, and if you feel it appropriate you may suggest changes to polling district boundaries or alternative proposals for polling places.

All representations will be published on the Council's website at <https://www.newark-sherwooddc.gov.uk/vote/latestnews/>. Any representations you wish to make should be submitted by Friday 25 October 2019.

All representations should be made by email to: voting@newark-sherwooddc.gov.uk or by post to: -

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