

Tuesday, 10 December 2024

Report of the Chief Executive

Tamworth Parliamentary Constituency – Review of polling districts, polling places and polling stations

Purpose

In accordance with the Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013, every council in England and Wales must undertake and complete a review of all of the polling district and polling places in its area.

Guidance produced by the Electoral Commission sets out the process for a review, and this has been followed.

Appendix A to this report provides a list of the recommended polling districts, polling places and polling stations, showing the changes which have been made since the last review.

Recommendations

It is recommended that:

1. That the Council adopts the polling districts and polling places as listed in **Appendix A** to this report.
2. That the Council sets the polling place as the polling district plus any adjacent polling district(s).
3. That the Council endorses the polling stations proposed by the Returning Officer as listed in **Appendix A** to this report.

Executive Summary

The Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013 (ERA 2013) introduced a change to the timing of compulsory reviews of UK Parliamentary polling districts and polling places. It stipulates that the next compulsory review must be completed between 1 October 2023 and 31 January 2025 (inclusive).

The review process began with the publication of the Notice of Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places 2024. Notices were placed on the council's website and council offices along with press releases and social media posts inviting electors to submit comments. The associated consultation period ran from Monday 9 September to Monday 14 October. Potentially interested organisations were written to along with local political parties. **Appendix B** outlines the organisations and individuals contacted. Regard was given to those with specific experience of assessing access for persons with different disabilities. During the consultation period 55 submissions were received covering the 10 wards of the Borough. These are summarised in **Appendix C**.

The Borough of Tamworth is currently divided into 50 polling districts covered by 52 polling stations. Polling districts, the geographic subdivisions of each wards, as well as polling places for each of these districts were within the scope of this review. The review considered the continued suitability of existing arrangements and where necessary, has made proposals for:

- The creation or removal of polling districts;
- "Change" or "no change" to the boundaries of polling districts;
- "Change" or "no change" to the referencing of those polling districts;
- "Change" or "no change" to the polling stations within those polling districts.

Borough ward boundaries, county council boundaries and parliamentary constituency boundaries were not in the scope of this review. The legislation requires that ward/county boundaries are reviewed by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England and the Electoral Commission and not by Local Authorities themselves. We do not have a mandate to suggest alterations to the boundaries between wards.

The review therefore, did not consider comments regarding local authority boundaries, neighbouring parliamentary constituencies, the name of local authority or other electoral areas within or bordering Tamworth Borough Council.

Following the conclusion of the review, certain persons have a right of appeal and may make such representations to the Electoral Commission. If, on receipt of such representations, it is found that a local authority's review did not:

- meet the reasonable requirements of the electors in the constituency, or a body of them, or
- take sufficient account of the accessibility for disabled persons of a polling station/ polling stations within a designated polling place

then the Electoral Commission may direct the authority to make any alterations that they think are necessary and, if the alterations are not made within two months, the Electoral Commission may make the alterations themselves.

The terms used as part of this report and their meaning can be found in **Appendix D**.

Options Considered

As set out in **Appendix A**.

Resource Implications

There are no financial implications as a result of this report. However, should an appeal be received there may be a financial risk to the Authority.

Legal/Risk Implications

The review is a statutory obligation and has been conducted in accordance with the necessary legislation.

Equalities Implications

Accessibility regarding polling stations is a key factor that has been taken into account when deciding on suitable polling locations.

The completed Community Impact Assessment can be found in **Appendix E**.

Environment and Sustainability Implications (including climate change)

These have been considered as part of the review along with disability and equality legislation in order to arrive at the recommendations given in the report.

Background Information

In accordance with the requirements set out in legislation a full review of the polling districts, polling places and polling stations has been carried out.

Report Author

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List of Background Papers

Representation of the People Act 1983

Electoral Administration Act 2006

Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013

Appendices

Appendix A – Recommendations by Ward

- Amington Ward
- Belgrave Ward
- Bolehall Ward
- Castle Ward
- Glascote Ward
- Mercian Ward
- Spital Ward
- Stonydelph Ward
- Trinity Ward
- Wilnecote Ward

Appendix B – List of Consultees

Appendix C – Summary of Submissions Received with Acting Returning Officer's comments

Appendix D – Glossary of Terms

Appendix E – Community Impact Assessment

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