

REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICTS AND POLLING STATIONS 2019

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Background

The Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013 requires a further Polling District and Polling Station Review to take place in the period of 16 months from 1 October 2018. The next review will ensure that any relevant changes to polling districts can be made to the Register of Electors which will be published on 1 December 2019.

Representations

The Council is required to seek representations from persons who have expertise in relation to access to premises or facilities for persons with different forms of disability.

The Council has also decided to consult a number of other groups and individuals who may have an interest in the exercise. These include local constituency parties, political groups on Kirklees Council, local members of parliament and all Kirklees ward councillors.

Representations may also be made by any resident of Kirklees.

What needs to be considered when making representations?

- Is the most suitable building in the area currently being used as the polling station?
- Would a less suitable building (from a disabled access point of view) be much easier to reach for the majority of the electorate and if this is the case could suitable ramps be provided?
- In some areas it may be preferable to use a fully accessible building which is near the edge of the polling district rather than a portable building in a more central position which is totally inaccessible to a wheelchair user.
- It should be noted that in more sparsely populated areas many electors are bound to have further to travel to cast their vote – it is not feasible to set up polling districts and polling stations for very small numbers of electors.
- Attention is drawn to areas where there are Parish or Town Councils – parish ward boundaries will not be changed at this time and so any

proposed polling district(s) must be wholly within parish wards (a parish ward can be made up of more than one polling district).

- Might it be possible to redraw part of a polling district boundary to include a more accessible building which could be used as a polling station?
- The Returning Officer will not be able to consider any changes which mean that a building to be used will have a significantly poorer level of access for people with disabilities than that previously used.
- When considering any changes to polling stations the availability of parking facilities must be considered and whether there are any designated disabled parking spaces.
- The Returning Officer will not be able to consider changes to polling stations which it is felt may have been suggested for party political reasons – the overriding consideration for the Returning Officer is that a polling station is the most suitable within the district for the majority of the electorate.
- When considering any representations the Council will also consider the possibility of more residential building in the area in the near future.
- The Electoral Commission recommends, and at some electoral events directs, the maximum number of electors attached to polling stations and so this review is not being undertaken with a view to reducing the number of polling stations.

Publication of representations

Persons or groups making submissions need to be aware that, upon completion of the review, all correspondence received by the Council in connection with the review will be published along with the details of the actual designations of polling districts and polling stations agreed as a result of the review.

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