

POLLING DISTRICTS AND POLLING STATION REVIEW

Notice of Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places in accordance with the requirements of the Representation of the People Act 1983 and Review of Polling Districts & Polling Places Regulations 2006.

We are looking for feedback on any aspect of polling districts and/or polling places currently used and invite representation and comments from interested persons.

Local political parties and Councillors will be consulted and views are invited from electors within the Parliamentary County Constituency of Hartlepool as well as such persons as may have particular expertise in relation to access to premises or facilities for persons who have different forms of disability.

Local community groups will also be consulted.

The consultation period for the review will commence on **8 November 2024** and conclude on **20 December 2024**

Although the review is of polling districts and polling places it is accepted that polling stations are inexorably linked to the review and comments are invited regarding those stations currently used and/or any suggested alternatives.

Attention is drawn to:

- Hartlepool has conducted five elections in 2024, four of which covered every Ward in the Borough. Polling stations used at these elections were fit for purpose and there were no issues reported.

Information regarding the proposed polling districts and places can be found on the Council's website or from Electoral Services at the address below:

Electoral Registration Officer
Civic Centre
Victoria Road
Hartlepool
TS24 8AY

Telephone: 01429 523088

Email: elections@hartlepool.gov.uk

Background

This Polling District & Polling Place Review is based on Ward boundaries, of which the Council has no control as these are determined by the Local Boundary Commission for England.

A polling place is provided for electors living within each polling district. The proposed changes to Wards mean that the Council is required to carry out a review of polling districts and polling places within the Borough, pursuant to Section 18C of the Representation of the People Act 1983. Hartlepool Borough Council is therefore conducting a review of polling districts and polling places.

As the Electoral Administration Act 2006 requires the Council to carry out a review every five years whereby by the Council is required to exercise its duty to review polling stations in the Borough with a view to giving all electors such reasonable facilities for voting as are practicable, and so far as is reasonable and practicable, to designate as polling places only places which are accessible to electors who are disabled.

A polling place for a polling district is expected to be an area in that district , except where special circumstances make it desirable to designate an area wholly or outside the polling district. Any polling district is expected to be small enough to indicate to electors in different parts of the polling district how they will be able to reach the polling station.

The main issues considered in the development of the proposals for polling districts and polling places are as follows:

- no more than 2,500 electors should poll at any polling station (not including postal voters); however, there can be more than one polling station in a polling place;
- the location, size and layout of a polling station when deciding the number of electors to be allocated to a polling district;
- accessibility to polling places for people with disabilities;
- whether the proposed polling places avoid barriers for the voter including major roads, rivers, steep hills etc;
- feedback received following all elections from members of the public, Elected Members and organisations.

The Action Returning Officer's proposals for the Polling Districts and suitability of Polling Places are available for inspection at the Civic Centre, Victoria Road, Hartlepool and on the Council's website. A consultation is available online at

<https://yoursay.hartlepool.gov.uk/polling-station-review-2024> with hard copies available from Electoral Services

The final date for comments on the Acting Returning Officer's representations is Friday, **20 December 2024**

Please note that all representations are required by law to be published and that if an individual does not want their representation attributed to them; they will need to let us know.

Please send representation to:

The Acting Returning Officer
Hartlepool Borough Council
Civic Centre
Victoria Road
Hartlepool
TS24 8AY

Email: elections@hartlepool.gov.uk

What happens next?

Once the Consultation period has closed, all comments and suggestions will be considered and the Acting Returning Officer will approve the final recommendations.

Once approved, the new polling districts and stations will be posted on the Council's website.