

Cheshire West & Chester Council

Department: Democratic Services

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Date: 10

October 2018

Dear Sir/Madam

STATUTORY REVIEW OF CHESHIRE WEST AND CHESTER'S POLLING DISTRICTS AND POLLING PLACES - SECTION 18C OF THE REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE ACT 1983

Cheshire West and Chester Council shall undertake a review of the parliamentary polling districts and parliamentary polling places within its area, to commence on 10 October 2018. This review is to be combined with a review of local government polling districts under Section 31 of the Act.

Between **10 October and 7 November 2018** (the consultation period) electors and stakeholders from within the following Parliamentary Constituencies are invited to make representations:

- City of Chester
- Ellesmere Port and Neston
- Eddisbury (Polling Districts which form part of Cheshire West's Polling Scheme)
- Weaver Vale (Polling Districts which form part of Cheshire West's Polling Scheme)
- Tatton (Polling Districts which form part of Cheshire West's Polling Scheme)

As part of the review, the (Acting) Returning Officer for the five parliamentary constituencies (above) will make comments as part of the review. These will be made available from 17 October 2018 - <https://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/your-council/voting-and-elections/voting-and-elections.aspx>

The Council welcomes comments from any resident or body, particularly in relation to access for persons with any type of disability, on its proposals, the (Acting) Returning Officer's views or any other matters. The deadline for comments is 7 November 2018. Those who make comments should, if possible, give alternative places that may be used as polling places.

The proposed changes to the Polling Districts and Polling Places have also taken into account any changes to Cheshire West's ward boundaries, made by the Local Government



Cheshire West
and Chester

Boundary Commissions. The Commission's final recommendations can be seen on their website. <https://consultation.lgbce.org.uk/node/9255>.

There are a number of ways to view the proposals and make comments:

- Visit: <https://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/your-council/voting-and-elections/voting-and-elections.aspx>
- Paper copies of the maps or documents can be viewed at Cheshire West and Chester Council's HQ office, 58 Nicholas Street, Chester, CH1 2NP. This can be done from Monday to Friday between 9am and 4pm. If you would like to make an appointment, contact the Democratic Services team: 01244 977084.
- Email: elreg@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk (make sure the subject is "Polling District Review")
- Post: Polling District and Place Review, Democratic Services, 4 Civic Way, Ellesmere Port, CH65 0LB

A full set of all the Ward maps showing the proposed Polling Districts and Stations will be placed in both of the Group Rooms in HQ

The revised proposals will be submitted to the Audit and Governance Committee at its meeting on 28 November 2018. The final decision will be made at the meeting of full Council to be held on 13 December 2018.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Andrea Thwaite

Andrea Thwaite
Democracy Programme Manager



Cheshire West
and Chester

TERMS OF REFERENCE CHESHIRE WEST POLLING DISTRICT AND PLACES REVIEW October 2018

1. INTRODUCTION

A review of parliamentary polling districts, polling places and polling stations within the local authority area of Cheshire West and Chester under the Representation of the Peoples Act 1983 (as amended) and the Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places (Parliamentary Elections) Regulations 2006 (as amended). Since October 2013, all local authorities have been required to review their polling districts, polling places, and polling stations every five years. The next compulsory review period is from October 2018 to Jan 2020 and Cheshire West and Chester Council has decided to commence its review on 10 October 2018.

Explanation of terms

- A 'polling district' is a geographical subdivision of an electoral area such as a county division or a district ward within which a polling place is designated.
- A 'polling place' is an area or building in which a polling station is usually located and can be a complete polling district.
- Polling districts can be created as an electoral requirement but also as a means to provide a more conveniently located polling station for the electorate.

2. AIMS OF THE REVIEW

1. In conducting this review, the Council will seek to ensure that:-
 - I. all electors in the constituency have such reasonable facilities for voting as are practicable in the circumstances;
 - II. polling places must contain buildings that are suitable for use as a polling station by all sections of the community;
 - III. so far as is reasonable and practicable, all polling stations are accessible to all electors, including people with disabilities;
 - IV. polling places must be located in an area of the corresponding polling district unless special circumstances make it desirable to designate an area that its wholly or partly outside of the polling district.



The Polling District and Place review requires councils to:

- Seek to ensure that all the electors in the constituency have such reasonable facilities for voting as are practicable in the circumstances.
- Seek to ensure that so far as is reasonable and practicable, the polling places they are responsible for are accessible to all electors, and when considering the designation of a polling place, must have regard to the accessibility needs of disabled persons.

The following is not considered as part of the Polling District and Polling Place review:

- The changing of any UK Parliamentary Constituency boundary and borough or parish ward boundaries. This review is concerned only with the administrative subdivision of a constituent ward into polling districts which are then assigned polling places;
- or
- The changing of polling districts in areas which are also aligned with parish boundaries and therefore cannot be amended during this review (these can only be amended during a Community Governance Review).

When conducting the Polling District and Polling Place review, Cheshire West and Chester Council uses the guidance and resources published by the Electoral Commission

3. SCOPE OF THE REVIEW

The following Parliamentary Constituent areas are included in the scope of the review:

- City of Chester
- Ellesmere Port and Neston
- Eddisbury (Polling Districts which form part of Cheshire West's Polling Scheme)
- Weaver Vale (Polling Districts which form part of Cheshire West's Polling Scheme)
- Tatton (Polling Districts which form part of Cheshire West's Polling Scheme)

4. TIMETABLE FOR THE POLLING DISTRICT AND PLACES REVIEW



Cheshire West & Chester Council

TASKS	DATES
Preliminary review of Polling Places - a review of the current polling places with a view of establishing their suitability, and identify any potential alternatives where required. This was undertaken prior to the start of the Statutory Review, where all Cheshire West's Polling Stations have been visited.	Completed 1 October 2017 - 31 August 2018
National Statutory review of Polling Places and Polling Districts to commence 1 October 2018 and conclude on January 2020	01 October 2018 - January 2020
Consultation period - Returning Officer for Cheshire West	10 October - 7 November 2018
Consultation period - Stakeholders and interested groups	10 October - 7 November 2018
Acting Returning Officer to publish their comments on the proposals	by 17 October 2018
Consultation closes	07 November 2018
Democratic Services to review all responses from consultation	07 - 12 November 2018
Democratic Services to prepare final recommendations on Polling District	12 - 20 November 2018
To consider and agree final recommendations for Polling Audit and Governance Committee	28 November 2018
Approve Cheshire West and Chester's new Polling District and Place Schemes - Full Council	13 December 2018
Public final proposals - Cheshire West and Chester Council's website.	28 January 2019

5. CONSULTATION

Before making any decisions, Cheshire West and Chester Council will take into account the views of local people and identified stakeholders.

Information relating to the review will be available on Cheshire West and Chester Council's website from 10 October 2018.

<https://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/your-council/voting-and-elections/voting-and-elections.aspx>



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Comments on the proposed new Polling Schemes and Polling Places should be made in writing to:

Democratic Services
Cheshire West and Chester Council
4 Civic Way
Ellesmere Port
CH65 0LB

Or alternatively by email to: **democracticservices@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk**
In the title of your email, please identify which ward and polling district you are commenting on.

Access to **paper copies** of the maps or documents can be viewed from 10 October 2018 at Cheshire West and Chester Council Offices, HQ, 58 Nicholas Street, Chester, CH1 2NP Monday – Friday 9am-4pm. Please contact tel: 01244 977084 to make an appointment.
Andrea Thwaite
Democracy Programme Manager
Cheshire West and Chester Council.



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