

All Correspondence send as part of the Polling District and Polling Places Review 2023

Letter send to AAP's, Darlington Borough Council, Gateshead Borough Council, MP's, Local Councillors and Parish Councils. A paper copy of the Notice of the Review and the polling station review questionnaire were also included.

Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places 2023

Dear

In accordance with Section 18C of the Representation of the People Act 1983 Durham County Council (the Council) is to carry out a review of its polling districts and polling places. The review may commence on 1 October 2023 and must be completed by 31 January 2025.

The consultation period for Durham County Council's review will commence **Monday 2 October 2023** and end **Monday 30 October 2023**. Following this the comments, observations and representations received will be considered and a report will be prepared for consideration by the Council for its meeting to be held on 24 January 2024.

The review must be carried out to make sure that all electors have such reasonable facilities for voting as are practicable in the circumstances.

The Notice of Review is enclosed. Further information detailing:-

- Polling Districts and Polling Places for each of the current Parliamentary Constituencies, together with the Acting Returning Officer's recommendations on future use
- a list of the existing polling stations
- the link to the electoral boundary maps

are available on the Council's website at www.durham.gov.uk/pollingdistrictreview

or can be viewed in person at the following locations:-

County Hall, Durham, DH1 5UL,
Barnard Castle, 2 Hall Street, Barnard Castle, DL12 8JB
Chester le Street, The Cestria Hub, 164A Front Street, Chester-le-Street, DH3 3AZ

Consett, 36-38 Front Street, Consett, DH8 5AQ

Crook, Durham County Council offices, 9 North Terrace, Crook, DL15 9AZ

Durham City, Clayport Library, 8 Millennium Place, Durham, DH1 1WA

Seaham, Seaham Contact Centre, St Johns Square, Seaham, SR7 7JE

Spennymoor, Durham County Council offices, Green Lane, Spennymoor, DL16 6JQ

Stanley, Louisa Sports Centre, Front Street, Stanley, DH9 0TE

As an individual, or a representative of an organisation, with an interest in our polling districts, polling places and polling stations, you are hereby invited to submit any representations that you feel are appropriate. This consultation is open to any elector within the Constituency.

We would ask that if you are minded to suggest moving away from a specific polling place that you do suggest an alternative for our consideration.

Any alternative suggestions will be inspected and weighed against the criteria and guidance provided by the Electoral Commission.

Comments and representations can be made as follows

By post	Electoral Services, PO Box 721, Durham, DH1 9RG
By email	electoralservices@durham.gov.uk
By completing	the online feedback form Polling Station Review 2023 - Questionnaire

I have included a copy of the polling station review 2023 questionnaire should you wish to use this format to submit any comments, observations or representations.

Notice of the Review



Notice of Polling Districts and Polling Places Review 2023

Notice is hereby given that in accordance with Section 18C of the Representation of the People Act 1983 Durham County Council (the Council) is to carry out a review of its polling districts and polling places.

Relevant information and mapping regarding the current arrangements and proposals for changes can be found on the Council's website [Consultations - Durham County Council](#) or can be inspected at:

County Hall, Durham, DH1 5UL,

or any of the following Customer Access Points

Barnard Castle, 2 Hall Street, Barnard Castle, DL12 8JB

Chester le Street, The Cestria Hub, 164A Front Street, Chester-le-Street, DH3 3AZ

Consett, 36-38 Front Street, Consett, DH8 5AQ

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The (Acting) Returning Officer (ARO) for the existing Parliamentary constituencies of Bishop Auckland, City of Durham, Easington, North Durham, North West Durham and Sedgfield and future Parliamentary constituencies of Bishop Auckland, Blaydon and Consett, City of Durham, Easington, Newton Aycliffe and Spennymoor and North Durham will comment on the proposals. Those representations will be published on the Council's website and will be available for inspection at the offices detailed above in accordance with the timetable set out below.

Electors within the Council area or within a UK Parliamentary constituency which has any part in the authority may make a representation. We invite comments from all electors regarding the convenience of voting at polling stations currently used for elections and would welcome suggestions for alternative sites.

The Council would also welcome the views of all residents, particularly disabled residents, or any person or body with expertise in access for persons with any type of disability, on the proposals, ARO's representations or any other related matters.

Anybody making representations should, if possible, give alternative places that may be used as polling places.

Comments and representations may be submitted as follows:

By post	Electoral Services, PO Box 721, Durham, DH1 9RG
By email	electoralservices@durham.gov.uk
By completing	the online feedback form Polling Station Review 2023 - Questionnaire

All representations must be made by no later than Monday 30 October 2023

Timetable

Date	Event
2 October 2023	Formal notice of review
2 October 2023	Publication of (Acting) Returning Officer's comments
2 October 2023	Commencement of public consultation period
30 October 2023	End of public consultation period
24 January 2024	Final proposals considered by Full Council
1 February 2024	Publish revised register of electors (if required)

The outcome of the review will be published by the Council in February 2024 and will be available for inspection on the Council's website and at the offices detailed above.

Anybody making representations should be aware that, upon completion of the review, all correspondence and representations received must, by law, also be published.

Letter, explanatory note and polling station response sheet (unavailable to view as they are system generated) sent to all existing polling stations.

Dear

Durham County Council – Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places 2023

The County Council is undertaking a statutory review of the polling districts and polling places within its area. Although the review is of polling districts and polling places it is accepted that polling stations are inexorably linked to the review.

As we have presently designated the above location as a polling station, I am writing to ascertain whether we will be able to continue with this arrangement in the future. This information will help to inform the review.

I would be obliged if you could confirm that the continued use is acceptable or advise me if you foresee any difficulties in our continued use of the above as a polling station either by completing the enclosed Review - Polling Station Response Sheet (reply paid envelope provided) or by email to electoralservices@durham.gov.uk, by 30 October 2023.

Relevant information and mapping regarding the current arrangements and proposals for changes can be found on the Council's website at [Consultations - Durham County Council](#)

I also enclose for your information explanatory notes regarding the review.

Yours faithfully

Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places - Explanatory Note

In accordance with Section 18C of the Representation of the People Act 1983, the Council must complete a review of its polling districts and polling places every five years.

The next scheduled review must be completed by 31 January, 2025.

What does the review involve?

The review must be carried out to make sure that all electors have such reasonable facilities for voting as are practicable in the circumstances.

On commencing the review a notice will be published with details of the review, including when and where comments or representations can be made.

Any elector in the constituency may make a representation in relation to the size and boundaries of polling districts and the location and suitability of polling places. The council also welcomes comments or representations from any Councillors in the area, past or potential candidates, local political parties and indeed any person or body with expertise in access for persons with any type of disability.

On completion of the review the council will publish all correspondence sent and received, details of the results of the review including any issues raised and indeed any changes which have been approved, giving the reasons for its decisions.

What is a Polling District?

A polling district is a geographical sub-division of an electoral area.

For voting purposes, each Parliamentary constituency and every local government division is divided into one or more polling districts. Wherever possible the polling districts for local government elections mirror that agreed for parliamentary elections.

What is a polling place?

A polling place is the building or area designated by the council where electors within the polling district go to vote in person.

However, there is no legal definition of what a polling place is.

It could be as large as the polling district or as small as a particular building.

What is a Polling Station?

A polling station is where the voting actually takes place and must be located within the polling place designated for the particular polling district.

You can have more than one polling station in a polling place

When deciding which buildings to use as polling stations, the Council tries to make sure that they are located as conveniently as possible for the majority of electors and that they are accessible to everyone, particularly anyone with a disability.

Thought must be given, for example, to the distance people have to travel to vote and any barriers to them getting there, such as major roads or rivers.

Letter, explanatory note and polling station response sheet (unavailable to view as they are system generated) sent to schools which currently used as a polling station.

Dear

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The County Council is undertaking a statutory review of the polling districts and polling places within its area. Although the review is of polling districts and polling places it is accepted that polling stations are inexorably linked to the review.

As you may be aware the Local Elections (Principal Areas) (England and Wales) Rules 2006 (SI No. 3304) allows the Returning Officer to use, free of charge, for the purposes of taking the poll or counting the votes, a room the expense of maintaining which is payable out of any rate.

As schools, including Academies are maintained out of the precept they fall within this category.

We have presently designated the above school as a polling station and as part of the review I am writing to invite you to submit your comments in relation to the designation of the school as a polling station.

Please submit your comments either by completing the enclosed Review - Polling Station Response Sheet (reply paid envelope provided) or by email to electoralservices@durham.gov.uk, by 30 October 2023.

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Yours faithfully

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Any elector in the constituency may make a representation in relation to the size and boundaries of polling districts and the location and suitability of polling places. The council also welcomes comments or representations from any Councillors in the area, past or potential candidates, local political parties and indeed any person or body with expertise in access for persons with any type of disability.

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[What is a Polling District?](#)

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[What is a polling place?](#)

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[What is a Polling Station?](#)

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Thought must be given, for example, to the distance people have to travel to vote and any barriers to them getting there, such as major roads or rivers.

Email introducer sent to local partnership/ community organisations/ disability network.

Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places 2023

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The consultation period for Durham County Council's review will commence **Monday 2 October 2023** and end **Monday 30 October 2023**. Following this the comments, observations and representations received will be considered and a report will be prepared for consideration by the Council for its meeting to be held on 24 January 2024.

The review must be carried out to make sure that all electors have such reasonable facilities for voting as are practicable in the circumstances.

The Notice of Review is attached. Further information detailing:-

- Polling Districts and Polling Places for each of the current Parliamentary Constituencies, together with the Acting Returning Officer's recommendations on future use
- a list of the existing polling stations
- the link to the electoral boundary maps

are available on the Council's website at www.durham.gov.uk/pollingdistrictreview

As an individual, or a representative of an organisation, with an interest in our polling districts, polling places and polling stations, you are hereby invited to submit any representations that you feel are appropriate. This consultation is open to any elector within the Constituency.

We would ask that if you are minded to suggest moving away from a specific polling place that you do suggest an alternative for our consideration.

Any alternative suggestions will be inspected and weighed against the criteria and guidance provided by the Electoral Commission.

Comments and representations can be made as follows

By post	Electoral Services, PO Box 721, Durham, DH1 9RG
By email	electoralservices@durham.gov.uk
By completing	the online feedback form https://online1.snapsurveys.com/CountyDurhamPDR

Review explanatory note which accompanied any letters or emails sent to consultees.

Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places

Every five years, we must legally complete a review of our polling districts and polling places. The next scheduled review must be completed by 31 January 2025 and will include proposed changes to Parliamentary boundaries which are being implemented for the next UK Parliamentary General election. The 2023 review will begin on 2 October 2023 and the intention is for the Council to consider a final report and recommendations on the review in January 2024.

The outcome of the ongoing local boundary review of Durham is not yet finalised, however it is expected that the final proposals of the local boundary review will require amendments to be made to polling districts and potentially polling places and an interim review will be held during 2024 to consider those amendments. They will not be considered as part of this review.

What does the review involve?

The review must be carried out to make sure that all electors have such reasonable facilities for voting as are practicable in the circumstances.

On commencing the review a notice will be published with details of the review, including when and where comments or representations can be made.

Any elector in the constituency may make a representation in relation to the size and boundaries of polling districts and the location and suitability of polling places. The council also welcomes comments or representations from any Councillors in the area, past or potential candidates, local political parties and indeed any person or body with expertise in access for persons with any type of disability.

On completion of the review the council will publish all correspondence sent and received, details of the results of the review including any issues raised and indeed any changes which have been approved, giving the reasons for its decisions.

What is a Polling District?

A polling district is a geographical sub-division of an electoral area.

For voting purposes, each Parliamentary constituency and every local government division is divided into one or more polling districts. Wherever possible the polling districts for local government elections mirror that agreed for parliamentary elections.

The current list of the existing Wards, Polling Districts and Polling Places is available on the Council's website.

What is a polling place?

A polling place is a geographical area in which a polling station is located.

However, there is no legal definition of what a polling place is.

It could be as large as the polling district or as small as a particular building.

What is a Polling Station?

A polling station is where the voting actually takes place and must be located within the polling place designated for the particular polling district.

You can have more than one polling station in a polling place

When deciding which buildings to use as polling stations, the Council tries to make sure that they are located as conveniently as possible for the majority of electors and that they are accessible to everyone, particularly anyone with a disability.

Thought must be given, for example, to the distance people have to travel to vote and any barriers to them getting there, such as major roads or rivers.