

Eastleigh Borough Council Review of Polling Districts, Polling Places and Polling Stations 2019

Background Information & (Acting) Returning Officer's Recommendations

Reason for the Review

Under the Representation of the People Act 1983 (as amended), the Council is undertaking a comprehensive review of its polling districts and polling places which will primarily look at the suitability of existing polling stations and, where appropriate, proposals to merge/combine polling districts.

The review must not be confused with changing any district ward boundaries.

The arrangements made for Parliamentary elections are also used at other elections.

What is a polling district?

Each constituency must be divided into a number of smaller geographical areas called polling districts.

In designating polling districts the local authority must ensure that electors are given such reasonable facilities for voting as is practicable in the circumstances and that each parish or parish ward is a separate polling district.

What is a polling place?

A polling place is the building or area in which polling stations will be selected by the (Acting) Returning Officer. A polling place within a polling district must be designated so that polling stations are within easy reach of all electors from across the polling district.

What is a polling station?

A polling station is the room or area within the polling place where voting takes place.

The designation of a polling station is the responsibility of the Returning Officer for the election and not local authority.

How the review is conducted

In preparing for the review, officers have researched possible alternative venues and taken into account the experience gained in the local and European elections held in May 2019.

The (Acting) Returning Officer for each parliamentary constituency within the area will be consulted and asked to make representations on the existing polling stations. Their comments will be published within 30 days of receipt.

Representations will be invited from electors, councillors, local political parties, parish councils, electors and those persons with particular expertise in relation to access to premises for persons with disabilities. He also welcomes comments on the suitability and accessibility of existing polling stations, any alternatives proposed in this submission, and any other suitable venues that respondents consider could be used as polling stations.

Revised arrangements will come into force on 1 December 2019.

The ARO's Recommendations P2 document sets out the (Acting) Returning Officer's recommendations, on behalf of Eastleigh Borough Council, and has identified a number of changes that should be considered during the review.