

Polling District and Places Review 2014

Returning Officer's Final Proposals following Consultation

Background

Within each Local Authority area, legislation requires Councils to carry out reviews of Polling Districts and Polling Places in that area.

The recent Electoral Registration & Administration Act 2013 changed the timing of these reviews and the next review must be held between 1 October and 31 January 2015 with subsequent reviews held within a 16 month period starting on 1 October every fifth year after 1 October 2013.

The Council's last review was held in 2011 when a number of minor changes were made.

A Council's area is divided into polling districts with one or more districts making up a ward, with a polling place being the area or building within a polling district in which a polling station is situated. Consequently, it is inevitable that polling stations are also considered as part of these reviews.

The review has considered:

- The boundaries of polling districts – for example, are they well defined? Do they follow natural boundaries? Are there suitable transport links? Are there any obstacles to crossing polling district boundaries?
- Polling Places – the location, size and accessibility of the polling place and its availability now and in the future
- Polling Stations – the suitability and accessibility of the room or area for use as a polling station

During the European Elections 2014, the opportunity was taken to complete the Electoral Commission's evaluation templates in order to assess the suitability/ accessibility of the polling place/ station. Presiding Officers were also asked to record any complaints/ comments received.

Tees Valley Unlimited has also provided electorate projections for the current polling district boundaries in each year and up to December 2018. This takes into account new housing and demolitions.

The following tables summarise the existing arrangements, key issues identified from the recent European Elections and any notable projected changes in electorate. There were a number of more detailed comments from the European Elections in relation to individual polling stations in relation to improving accessibility/ privacy of voting. These detailed observations are not included within the schedule but will be taken into account in the planning for future electoral events. Mobile polling stations continue to be used where no alternative venues can be found. Mobile stations are expensive and unpopular with voters and suggestions for alternative venues are always welcomed. Unfortunately, many schools do not co-operate in making school premises available for polling stations. The proposals take into account Electoral Commission Guidance that the number of electors allocated to a particular polling station should not exceed 2,500. The Returning Officer's final proposals/ comments are included below in relation to the polling districts and places within each ward taking into account consultation feedback.

District Ward:	Billingham Central
Electorate:	5220
Constituency:	Stockton North

Polling District Letters	Current No. of Postal Voters	No. Voting In Person At Polling Station Election	No. of Electors	Polling Station	Initial Comments	Disabled Access
BC1	278	1288	1566	Billingham Baptist Church, Cheviot Crescent		Y
BC2	222	927	1149	The Medway Centre, Sidlaw Road		Y
BC3	266	1179	1445	St. Aidan's Church, Hall Entrance, Tintern Avenue		Y
BC4	225	835	1060	Roseberry Library, The Causeway	Library relocating Dec 2014 but remaining in the polling district.	Y

Returning Officer's Final Proposals
No change

District Ward:	Billingham East
Electorate:	5295
Constituency:	Stockton North

Polling District Letters	Current No. of Postal Voters	No. Voting In Person At Polling Station Election	No. of Electors	Polling Station	Initial Comments	Disabled Access
BE1	441	1898	2339	New Life Family Centre, Low Grange Avenue	Could accommodate another station	Y
BE2	190	966	1156	Synthonia Scout Group, Scout Hut, Greenwood Road		Y
BE3/BE4	295	1505	1800	Low Grange Community Hall, Low Grange Avenue		Y

Returning Officer's Final Proposals
No change.

District Ward:	Billingham North
Electorate:	7153
Constituency:	Stockton North

Polling District Letters	Current No. of Postal Voters	No. Voting In Person At Polling Station Election	No. of Electors	Polling Station	Initial Comments	Disabled Access
BN1	504	1927	2431	High Grange Community Centre, Casson Way	Could accommodate another station	Y
BN2	268	1197	1465	Mobile Polling Station Low Grange, Low Grange Avenue, Grass Verge between Springwell Close and Elvington Close		Y
BN3	354	1225	1579	Mobile Polling Station, Junction Tunstall Avenue		Y
BN4	351	1327	1678	North Billingham Methodist Church, Marsh House Avenue		Y

Returning Officer's Final Proposals
No change.

District Ward:	Billingham South
Electorate:	4925
Constituency:	Stockton North

Polling District Letters	Current No. of Postal Voters	No. Voting In Person At Polling Station Election	No. of Electors	Polling Station	Initial Comments	Disabled Access
BS1	315	1105	1420	St. John's RC Church, Central Avenue		Y
BS2	30	445	475	High Clarence Primary School, Tiny Tots Entrance, Port Clarence Road	Projected reduction in electorate of 6% by December 2018.	Y
BS3	299	1209	1508	St. Cuthbert's Church Hall, Church Road		Y
BS4	248	1274	1522	Old Billingham Community Centre, East Avenue		Y

Returning Officer's Final Proposals
Although polling district BS2 has a small electorate, it is not recommended that this is combined with another district owing to the rural nature of the district and distances that voters would have to travel to another polling place.

District Ward:	Billingham West
Electorate:	4641
Constituency:	Stockton North

Polling District Letters	Current No. of Postal Voters	No. Voting In Person At Polling Station Election	No. of Electors	Polling Station	Initial Comments	Disabled Access
BW1	527	1538	2065	Monkseaton Community Hall, Matlock Gardens		Y
BW2	451	1291	1742	Wolviston Court Community Centre, Clifton Avenue		Y
BW3	202	632	834	Wolviston Court Community Centre, Clifton Avenue		Y

Returning Officer's Final Proposals
No change.

District Ward:	Bishopsgarth and Elm Tree
Electorate:	5176
Constituency:	Stockton South

Polling District Letters	Current No. of Postal Voters	No. Voting In Person At Polling Station Election	No. of Electors	Polling Station	Initial Comments	Disabled Access
BET1	306	1241	1547	Mobile Polling Station, Bothall Drive		Y
BET2	161	677	838	Medina House, Medina Close		Y
BET3/BET4	156	581	737	Elm Tree Community Centre, The Oak Room		Y
BET5	683	1371	2054	Elm Tree Community Centre, The Oak Room		Y

Returning Officer's Final Proposals
It is proposed to combine polling districts BET3, BET 4 and BET5 in view of the low electorate and for electors to continue to vote at the Elm Tree Community Centre. Alternative venues to the mobile station for BET 1 are also being investigated.

District Ward:	Eaglescliffe
Electorate:	8249
Constituency:	Stockton South

Polling District Letters	Current No. of Postal Voters	No. Voting In Person At Polling Station Election	No. of Electors	Polling Station	Initial Comments	Disabled Access
EG1	557	1656	2213	Parkmore Hotel, Yarm Suite, Yarm Road	Could accommodate another station	Y
EG2/EG5/EG6	496	1457	1953	Egglecliffe Library, Butterfield Drive	There were a number of complaints about the size of the station and lack of privacy. Eaglescliffe Community Centre is the proposed alternative.	Y
EG3	492	1210	1702	Mobile Polling Station, Lingfield Drive	Projected increase in electorate of 22% by December 2018.	Y
EG4/EG8	346	1088	1434	Preston Primary School, Laurel Road		Y
EG7	229	718	947	Egglecliffe Parish Hall, Small Hall		Y

Returning Officer's Final Proposals
Taking into account feedback from Members and staff, it is proposed to use Eaglescliffe Community Centre for polling districts EG2/5/6.

District Ward:	Fairfield
Electorate:	4684
Constituency:	Stockton South

Polling District Letters	Current No. of Postal Voters	No. Voting In Person At Polling Station Election	No. of Electors	Polling Station	Initial Comments	Disabled Access
FF1	379	962	1341	Fairfield Centre (Old Boys Club), 45 Limbrick Avenue	Could accommodate a double station	Y
FF2	332	1069	1401	St. Patrick's R.C. Primary School, Nursery Unit, Glenfield Road	Reports of voter confusion about the location of the polling station which is outside of district FF2.	Y
FF3	561	1381	1942	The Rimswell, Bishopton Road West		Y

Returning Officer's Final Proposals
<p>It is proposed to combine polling districts FF1 and FF2 and continue to use the Fairfield Centre as the polling place. Electorate within these districts can accommodate this change and the Fairfield Centre is more convenient for voters in the current FF2 district than the existing polling place.</p>

District Ward:	Grangefield
Electorate:	4961
Constituency:	Stockton South

Polling District Letters	Current No. of Postal Voters	No. Voting In Person At Polling Station Election	No. of Electors	Polling Station	Initial Comments	Disabled Access
GF1	484	994	1478	Tees Valley Music Service, Next to Our Lady St. Bede's RC School, Bishopton Road West	Voter confusion about the location of this station and it is unlikely to be available in the future. Suggest Stockton Town Football Club as alternative polling place.	Y
GF2	243	848	1091	Grange Estate Institute, Main Door 9-11 Grays Road		Y
GF3	375	1380	1755	Grangefield Youth and Community Centre, Oxbridge Lane		Y
GF4	195	751	946	Hartburn Sea Scouts Huts, Main Entrance, Greens Grove	A number of complaints about accessibility/ tripping hazards due to the poor condition of the premises. Suggestions for an alternative venue welcomed.	Y

Returning Officer's Final Proposals
It is proposed to use Stockton Town Football Club as an alternative polling place for polling district GF1.

District Ward:	Hardwick and Salters Lane
Electorate:	4961
Constituency:	Stockton North

Polling District Letters	Current No. of Postal Voters	No. Voting In Person At Polling Station Election	No. of Electors	Polling Station	Initial Comments	Disabled Access
HD1	123	678	801	Hardwick Community Centre, Whessoe Road		Y
HD2	222	1096	1318	Hardwick Green Primary Academy, Tithe Barn Road		Y
HD3	209	656	865	Salters Lane Community Centre, Hunwick Walk		Y
HD4/HD5	339	1638	1977	Hardwick Baptist Church, Piper Knowle Road	Projected increase of electorate in HD5 of 39.9% by December 2018. The current polling place can accommodate multiple stations.	Y

Returning Officer's Final Proposals
It is proposed to combine polling districts HD1 and HD2 in view of the low electorate in these districts and continue to use Hardwick Green Primary Academy as a polling place.

District Ward:	Hartburn
Electorate:	5378
Constituency:	Stockton South

Polling District Letters	Current No. of Postal Voters	No. Voting In Person At Polling Station Election	No. of Electors	Polling Station	Initial Comments	Disabled Access
HB1	481	1176	1657	Elmwood Community Centre, Conference Room, Darlington Road		Y
HB2	596	1391	1987	Mobile Polling Station, Junction of Birkdale Road and Tunstall Road		Y
HB3	498	1236	1734	Holy Trinity Rosehill VA CE Primary School, Upsall Grove		Y

Returning Officer's Final Proposals
It is proposed to reduce the ward to two polling districts by dividing HB2 at Birkdale Road with electors on the east side voting at Elmwood Community Centre and electors on the west side voting at Holy Trinity Rosehill VA CE Primary School.

District Ward:	Ingleby Barwick East
Electorate:	7700
Constituency:	Stockton South

Polling District Letters	Current No. of Postal Voters	No. Voting In Person At Polling Station Election	No. of Electors	Polling Station	Initial Comments	Disabled Access
IBE1	579	1906	2485	Whinstone Primary School, Nursery Unit, Lowfields Avenue		Y
IBE2	332	1492	1824	Whinstone Primary School, Nursery Unit, Lowfields Avenue		Y
IBE3	275	822	1097	Community Centre, Haresfield Way		Y
IBE4	334	1374	1708	Community Centre, Haresfield Way		Y
IBE5	67	191	258	Maltby Village Hall, High Lane	Projected increase in electorate of 78.3% to December 2018.	Y
IBE6	107	221	328	Hilton Village Hall, Seamer Road		Y

Returning Officer's Final Proposals
No change.

District Ward:	Ingleby Barwick West
Electorate:	7992
Constituency:	Stockton South

Polling District Letters	Current No. of Postal Voters	No. Voting In Person At Polling Station Election	No. of Electors	Polling Station	Initial Comments	Disabled Access
IBW1	372	1406	1778	Mobile Polling Station, Roundhill Avenue		Y
IBW2	404	1238	1642	Mobile Polling Station, Opposite Windmill, Penyghent Way		Y
IBW3	349	1066	1415	St. Francis of Assisi, Church Centre, Barwick Way		Y
IBW4	752	2405	3157	Ingleby Barwick Library, Front Entrance, Blair Avenue	Projected increase in electorate of 27% up to December 2018. The increase over the next 12 months necessitates an additional station in 2015.	Y

Returning Officer's Final Proposals
Taking into account feedback from Members and the projected increase in electorate, it is proposed that polling district IBW4 is split into two separate polling districts at Barwick Lane – this is a natural boundary between the estates on Ingleby Barwick West. It is proposed to use the Golf Club as a polling station on the Rings estate for the new polling district in IBW5.

District Ward:	Mandale and Victoria
Electorate:	7809
Constituency:	Stockton South

Polling District Letters	Current No. of Postal Voters	No. Voting In Person At Polling Station Election	No. of Electors	Polling Station	Initial Comments	Disabled Access
MV1	57	707	764	Rochester Court Sheltered Housing, Stanford Close		Y
MV2	301	1707	2008	Old People's Welfare Hall, Peel Street		Y
MV3	287	1347	1634	St. Patricks RC Church Hall, Cranworth Street		Y
MV4	294	1118	1412	Thornaby Academy Post 16 Area, Baysdale Road	Projected increase in electorate of 15.4% to December 2018.	Y
MV5	341	1650	1991	Robert Atkinson Centre, Room 1 Thorntree Road		Y

Returning Officer's Final Proposals
No change.

District Ward:	Newtown
Electorate:	4994
Constituency:	Stockton North

Polling District Letters	Current No. of Postal Voters	No. Voting In Person At Polling Station Election	No. of Electors	Polling Station	Initial Comments	Disabled Access
NT1	220	1532	1752	St. John's Church, Durham Road		Y
NT2	155	842	997	Newtown Resource Centre, Durham Road	Could accommodate a double station. Confusion about access to the separate polling stations	Y
NT3	356	1086	1442	Newtown Resource Centre, Durham Road		Y
NT4	81	418	499	Ragworth Neighbourhood Centre, Training Room 7, St. Johns Way		Y
NT5	48	256	304	St. Pauls Church Hall, Bishopton Road		Y

Returning Officer's Final Proposals
<p>It is proposed to combine polling districts NT2 and NT3 and continue to use the Newtown Resource Centre as the polling place. The electorate within these districts can accommodate this change and electors in both areas would continue to vote at the Newtown Resource Centre in one station.</p>

District Ward:		Northern Parishes				
Electorate:		2880				
Constituency:		Stockton North				
Polling District Letters	Current No. of Postal Voters	No. Voting In Person At Polling Station Election	No. of Electors	Polling Station	Initial Comments	Disabled Access
NP1	394	1194	1588	Wynyard Golf Club, Duke Suite, Wellington Drive	Projected increase in electorate of 23.7% to December 2018.	Y
NP2/NP3	196	609	805	Wolviston Village Community Centre (Village Hall), West Hartlepool Road		Y
NP4	119	368	487	Parish Hall, Durham Road, Thorpe Thewles	Projected increase in electorate of 20.4% to December 2018.	Y

Returning Officer's Final Proposals	
No change.	

District Ward:	Norton North
Electorate:	4959
Constituency:	Stockton North

Polling District Letters	Current No. of Postal Voters	No. Voting In Person At Polling Station Election	No. of Electors	Polling Station	Initial Comments	Disabled Access
NN1	327	1067	1394	St. Mary's Parish Hall, The Green, Norton		Y
NN2	153	802	955	Norton Methodist Church Hall, Norton Road		Y
NN3	192	869	1061	Norton Grange Community Resource Centre, Somerset Road		Y
NN4	379	1170	1549	Norton Christian Spiritualist Church, Darlington Road		Y

Returning Officer's Final Proposals
No change.

District Ward:		Norton South				
Electorate:		4628				
Constituency:		Stockton North				
Polling District Letters	Current No. of Postal Voters	No. Voting In Person At Polling Station Election	No. of Electors	Polling Station	Initial Comments	Disabled Access
NS1	169	766	935	Malleable Club, Concert Room, Norton Road		Y
NS2	212	1017	1229	St. Michael and all Angels Church, Imperial Avenue	Projected increase in electorate of 15.5% to December 2018.	Y
NS3	273	1273	1546	Albany Community Resource Centre, Surrey Road		Y
NS4	216	702	918	Norton TA Centre, Norton Road		Y

Returning Officer's Final Proposals						
No change.						

District Ward:	Norton West
Electorate:	5140
Constituency:	Stockton North

Polling District Letters	Current No. of Postal Voters	No. Voting In Person At Polling Station Election	No. of Electors	Polling Station	Initial Comments	Disabled Access
NW1	392	1208	1600	Education Centre, Junction Road		Y
NW2	604	1402	2006	Glebe Community Centre, Opp Centenary Public House, Hanover Parade		Y
NW3	355	1179	1534	Crooksbar Primary School, Petrel Crescent		Y

Returning Officer's Final Proposals
Identify a suitable site for a mobile polling station to replace the Education Centre as a polling place.

District Ward:	Parkfield and Oxbridge
Electorate:	5173
Constituency:	Stockton South

Polling District Letters	Current No. of Postal Voters	No. Voting In Person At Polling Station Election	No. of Electors	Polling Station	Initial Comments	Disabled Access
PO1	347	1767	2114	Sunrise Children's Centre Café, Yarm Road	Room used for polling station too small. Need to use an alternative room within the Children's Centre.	Y
PO2	233	926	1159	Sunrise Children's Centre Café, Yarm Road	Projected increase in electorate of 33.6% up to December 2018. Same comments on room as above	Y
PO3	252	1215	1467	Oxbridge Christian Fellowship, The Apostolic Church, Oxbridge Lane	Could accommodate an additional station.	Y
PO4	107	326	433	Mobile Polling Station, Junction Hartburn Avenue/Bromley Road		Y

Returning Officer's Final Proposals
It is proposed to combine polling districts PO3 and PO4 in view of the small electorate at PO4 and continue to use Oxbridge Christian Fellowship as the preferred polling place.

District Ward:	Roseworth
Electorate:	5132
Constituency:	Stockton North

Returning Officer's Final Proposals

Polling District Letters	Current No. of Postal Voters	No. Voting In Person At Polling Station Election	No. of Electors	Polling Station	Initial Comments	Disabled Access
RW1	340	966	1306	The Mile House Lounge Area, Durham Road		Y
RW2	147	685	832	St. Peters and Paul RC Church, Redhill Road		Y
RW3	162	879	1041	Kiora Hall Youth and Community Centre, Ragpath Lane		Y
RW4	136	744	880	Mobile Polling Station, Ringwood Crescent		Y
RW5	198	875	1073	Kiora Hall Youth and Community Centre, Ragpath Lane		Y

It is proposed to combine polling districts RW3 and RW5 and continue to use Kiora Hall as the polling place.

District Ward:		Stainsby Hill				
Electorate:		4892				
Constituency:		Stockton South				
Polling District Letters	Current No. of Postal Voters	No. Voting In Person At Polling Station Election	No. of Electors	Polling Station	Initial Comments	Disabled Access
SH1	269	965	1234	Eltham Crescent Community Centre, Eltham Crescent		Y
SH2	258	1419	1677	South Thornaby Community Centre, Off Haviland Road		Y
SH3	292	1118	1410	Thornaby Central Library Main Library, Pavilion Shopping Centre		Y
SH4	129	442	571	Roundel Public House, Mitchell Avenue	Access to the Polling Station is difficult	Y

Returning Officer's Final Proposals	
No change.	

District Ward:		Stockton Town Centre				
Electorate:		4472				
Constituency:		Stockton North				
Polling District Letters	Current No. of Postal Voters	No. Voting In Person At Polling Station Election	No. of Electors	Polling Station	Initial Comments	Disabled Access
STC1	207	707	914	Stockton Central Library, Rear Entrance via Municipal Buildings Car Park	Projected reduction in electorate of 28.9% up to December 2018.	Y
STC2	73	490	563	Frank E Wiseman Communal Hall, 28 Stewart Road		Y
STC3	108	656	764	The Willows Centre – Main Hall Tilery Primary School, Northport Road	Projected increase in electorate of 62.3% up to December 2018.	Y
STC4	189	1152	1341	St. Andrew & St. George Church Hall, Webster Street		Y
STC5	157	733	890	Mill Lane Primary School, Wellington Street		Y

Returning Officer's Final Proposals	
No change.	

District Ward:	Village
Electorate:	5387
Constituency:	Stockton South

Polling District Letters	Current No. of Postal Voters	No. Voting In Person At Polling Station Election	No. of Electors	Polling Station	Initial Comments	Disabled Access
VL1	322	882	1204	Stafford Place Cricket Club, Bassleton Lane		Y
VL2	380	1532	1912	Meadowfield House Function Room, 103 Thorntree Road		Y
VL3	253	948	1201	Christ the King RC Church, Trenchard Avenue		Y
VL4	233	837	1070	The Griffin, Bader Avenue		Y

Returning Officer's Final Proposals
No change.

District Ward:	Western Parishes
Electorate:	2707
Constituency:	Stockton North

Polling District Letters	Current No. of Postal Voters	No. Voting In Person At Polling Station Election	No. of Electors	Polling Station	Initial Comments	Disabled Access
WP1/WP3	214	650	864	Carlton Methodist Church School Room, Letch Lane		Y
WP2	185	729	914	Stillington Youth and Community Centre, Lowson Street		Y
WP4/WP5	238	691	929	Long Newton and Elton Youth and Community Centre, Darlington Road, Long Newton	Portable ramp required to enable future use as polling place	N

Returning Officer's Final Proposals
It is proposed to use The Wilson Centre as the polling place for WP4/5 in view of the better disabled access and lack of availability of the Youth and Community Centre in the future.

District Ward:	Yarm
Electorate:	7612
Constituency:	Stockton South

Polling District Letters	Current No. of Postal Voters	No. Voting In Person At Polling Station Election	No. of Electors	Polling Station	Initial Comments	Disabled Access
YM1	551	1274	1825	Levendale Primary School, Mount Leven Road		Y
YM2	387	1016	1403	Challoner House, Challoner Road		Y
YM3	521	1192	1713	Yarm Primary School, Fiction Library, Spitalfields		Y
YM4	125	544	669	Yarm Public Library, High Street		Y
YM5	249	844	1093	Layfield Primary School, The Hall, Everingham Drive		Y
YM6, YM7	275	634	909	Kirklevington & Castlelevington Memorial Hall, Pump Lane, Kirklevington		Y

Returning Officer's Final Proposals
Due to future unavailability of Levendale Primary School, a suitable site for a mobile polling station for YM1 will need to be found.