

# Briefing Note

## Polling Districts & Polling Places Review

### 1.0 Background

1.1 The Register of Electors in Cornwall is divided into over 500 local areas (“polling districts”). By law, every polling district must be assigned a polling place where electors can vote at elections. Around 450 buildings are used as polling stations in Cornwall. Most are village and church halls, schools and community centres, but we also use some portable cabins and even a 19th century Cornish castle. The review will aim to ensure that voting arrangements for future elections suit the needs of electors in each area, so that electors have access to reasonable facilities for voting. The Council is required by law to review all polling districts and polling stations in Cornwall by 31st January 2020.

1.2 The timetable for the review is strictly governed, and began on 4 March 2019.

Date	Event/Activity
4 March 2019	Notice of review published and Stage 1 consultation begins
15 April 2019	Stage 1 consultation ends
8 May 2019	Constitution and Governance Review Committee meeting to consider Acting Returning Officers report
3 June 2019	Draft recommendations published by the Acting Returning Officer and Stage 2 consultation begins
15 July 2019	Stage 2 consultation ends
12 September 2019	Constitution and Governance Review Committee meeting to consider Acting Returning Officers report
23 September 2019	Final recommendations published by the Acting Returning Officer
5 November 2019	Constitution and Governance Review Committee meeting to approve final recommendations. Polling district orders to be made.
1 December 2019	Annual register of electors published within the current 122 electoral divisions
1 December 2020	Annual register of electors published within the new 87 electoral divisions

### 2.0 What happens next?

2.1 Parish councils are asked to consider the review at their March meeting and answer a short questionnaire about the suitability of the current arrangements and whether you might want to change or improve them. Before answering, you might wish to consider how accessible the current polling stations are for people with disabilities, and if any modifications would improve access for other residents groups.

This item will be added to the March agenda, and the Clerk will take you through the survey. Councillors are free to complete the survey individually online by following this link: [www.cornwall.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/elections/polling-districts-and-polling-places-review-2019/get-involved/](http://www.cornwall.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/elections/polling-districts-and-polling-places-review-2019/get-involved/)

Please note

The Polling District and Polling Places Review is not the same as the Community Governance Review. These reviews are completely separate and must each follow a different legal process. However, Cornwall Council will be monitoring responses for both reviews for any crossover issues.

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