

Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places

Consultation Document

The consultation period runs from Monday 28th April 2025 to Sunday 8th June 2025.

1. Background to the Review

New polling districts and polling places are required after the recent Local Government Boundary Review of Swindon to ensure that all electors within the Borough of Swindon have such reasonable facilities for voting as are practicable and to ensure that polling places are accessible to all electors, including those with special needs.

As part of this process the council is consulting elected members (MP's, Borough and Parish councillors), local political parties and electors, as well as persons or organisations that have a particular expertise in relation to access to premises for people with different forms of disability.

2. Definitions

A **polling district** is a geographical area created by the sub-division of an electoral area, e.g. a constituency, a borough ward, a parish, or a parish ward. Each polling district forms a separate section of the Electoral Register.

A **polling place** is a designated building or area in which polling stations will be located. The polling station itself could be the polling place or it could be part or all of the polling district.

A **polling station** is a room or building where the process of voting takes place. Polling stations are chosen by the Returning Officer for specific elections.

3. The Review Process

- The Council will publish a Notice of Review of Polling Districts, Polling Places and Polling Stations on Monday 28th April 2025.
- The Acting Returning Officers for the parliamentary constituencies of East Wiltshire, Swindon North and Swindon South will be consulted and will make formal comments on the review and its recommendations. These comments will be published within 30 days of receipt.
- Representations will be invited from MP's, Borough Councillors, Parish Councillors, local residents and any person or organisation that have a particular expertise in relation to access to premises for people with different forms of disability on the proposed polling arrangements.
- The authority will consider all representations made and make recommendations for the new polling districts and polling places.

4. What is not being reviewed

The following are not covered by the review:

- Boundaries of parliamentary constituencies
- Boundaries and names of Swindon Borough Council wards, or parish and parish wards within the Swindon Borough Council boundary

Therefore, with reference to the constituencies, wards, parishes, and parish wards for each proposed polling district listed in the Draft Scheme of Polling Districts and Polling Places, it is not legally permissible to merge separate electoral areas and representations should avoid making recommendations to do so.

This consultation document can be inspected upon request at Electoral Services, Civic Offices, Euclid Street, Swindon SN1 2JH between the hours of 09:30am to 4:00pm Mondays to Thursdays, or from www.swindon.gov.uk/Councillors, Democracy and Elections/ Elections and Voting.

5. Representations and Comments

These should be submitted to arrive by 12 midnight on Sunday 8th June to:

Electoral Services (Review PD)
Civic Offices
Euclid St
Swindon
SN1 2JH

Or email (please use subject 'Review PD') to elecereg@swindon.gov.uk

Comments and representations will be made available for inspection with this consultation document at the Electoral Services Office.

6. Completion of the Review

A report will be submitted to the Council meeting in September 2025 for Councillors to consider the proposals, any representations received and recommendations in order to reach a decision on future polling arrangements. These will be implemented for elections held after 1st April 2026.

Sam Mowbray, Chief Executive

Dated: 28th April 2025