

The following was sent to known disability groups within the district as part of the formal consultation period for the 2022 Polling Districts and Places review.

Dear [REDACTED],

The recent review of the New Forest electoral arrangements by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) has necessitated that we carry out a review of polling districts and places to ensure that polling districts still offer the best for our electorate and fit with the revised ward boundaries.

The commencement of this review has been approved which will now be subject to consultation from 18 July – 28 August 2022.

Details of the review have been published on the District Council's website – please follow this link:-

www.newforest.gov.uk/districtsandplacesreview2022

There you will find:

- (a) The formal Notice of the review;
- (b) A map of the new district wards;
- (c) A schedule of all polling places/stations in the district together with the Returning Officer's comments;
- (d) A map of proposed polling districts;
- (e) On-line and a downloadable response forms.

To assist the following is a brief resume of what is being reviewed and the principles underlying the review:

1. A **"polling district"** is a geographical area created by a sub-division of a UK Parliamentary constituency for the purposes of a UK Parliamentary Election.
2. A **"polling place"** is a building or area in which the polling station is located. It can be defined as the entire polling district or as tightly as a particular building.
3. A **"polling station"** is the room or area where the process of voting takes place and must be located within the polling place designated for the particular polling district. Polling stations are allocated by the Returning Officer.

The factors required to be addressed as part of the review are:

- (a) To ensure that all electors have such reasonable facilities for voting as are practicable in the circumstances;
- (b) To ensure that, as far as is reasonable and practicable, every polling place is accessible to electors who are disabled ;and
- (c) The polling place for a polling district must be within the polling district unless special circumstances make it desirable to designate an area outside of polling district.

As part of this consultation, we would be very grateful to receive your comments and expertise from an access point of view so that the needs of our electorate who have any type of disability are well represented.

Your comments, which are requested **no later than 28th August 2022**, on current arrangements and the Returning Officer's suggestions, as set out in the Schedule, are invited. If you wish to comment, please use the on-line comments form available on the website or download a copy of our form and return via post or alternatively reply via email.

Please note that all representations and correspondence will be published as part of the consultation process and will be available on www.newforest.gov.uk/elections. Personal information will be redacted prior to publication. For more information on how the council uses your data please see www.newforest.gov.uk/privacy

If you have any questions or you require any additional information, please contact [REDACTED] or [REDACTED].

Kind regards

[REDACTED]