

---

**Polling District changes as a result of the review of Worcestershire County Divisions by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England**

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Councillor May, Leader and Cabinet Member for Strategic Partnerships and Enabling
Portfolio Holder Consulted	Yes
Relevant Head of Service	Claire Felton
Report Author	Job Title: Darren Whitney, Electoral Services Manager Contact email: darren.whitney@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk Contact Tel: 01527 881650
Wards Affected	N/A
Ward Councillor(s) consulted	
Relevant Strategic Purpose(s)	N/A
Non-Key Decision	
If you have any questions about this report, please contact the report author in advance of the meeting.	

**1. RESOLUTIONS**

- 1.1 that the proposals in respect of polling districts, as contained in the report (as amended), be approved; and**
- 1.2 that the decisions of the Committee in respect of 1.1 above take effect from the publication of the revised Register of Electors.**

**2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 The report highlights where changes could be made to polling districts due to the final recommendations of the Local Government Boundary Commission for England's (LGBCE) review for Worcestershire County Council Divisions.
- 2.1 They are brought to the Committee at this time as they need to be reflected in the revised electoral register which will be published on 1 December.

**3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 3.1 No direct costs from this report.

**4. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 The LGBCE is a statutory body accountable to Parliament that conducts reviews of local authority electoral arrangements in England. Its statutory obligations are set out in the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.
- 4.2 Authority to set polling district boundaries and to designate polling places rests with the Council (Statutory elements of the Council's Constitution under the Local Government Act 2000). Redditch Borough Council has delegated full relevant powers to this Electoral Matters Committee.
- 4.3 Decisions about the situation of polling stations within designated polling places are for the (Acting) Returning Officer. Arrangements must comply with relevant provisions of the Representation of the People Acts and Regulations and the Equality Act 2010.

**5. STRATEGIC PURPOSES - IMPLICATIONS**

**Relevant Strategic Purpose**

- 5.1 This report deals with statutory functions but relates to the strategic purpose of an effective and sustainable council.

**Climate Change Implications**

- 5.2 It is preferable that choice of boundaries can help minimise unnecessary additional journeys by motorised vehicles.
- 5.3 Emissions and carbon footprint should be reduced as far as possible.

**6. OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

**Equalities and Diversity Implications**

- 6.1 None for this report.

**Operational Implications**

- 6.2 The LGBCE published the Final Recommendations for the new electoral county divisions in Worcestershire on 9 July 2024 and a draft order was laid before Parliament on 11 September 2024.

- 6.3 Details of the review can be found on the LGBCE website:  
<https://www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/worcestershire>
- 6.4 For the Bromsgrove District area the LGBCE recommended nine divisions, all of which will have one member.
- 6.5 Due to the divisional boundary changes some of the polling districts have become redundant as district ward and county division are no longer different.
- 6.6 When reviewing the following it should be noted polling district names and the polling districts themselves are for administrative purposes only.
- 6.7 The convention used in Bromsgrove in naming polling district letters is to have the first two letters as an indication of the district ward then a third letter signifying the polling district within the ward starting from A and ascending alphabetically.
- 6.8 The summary of changes is included in appendix 1.
- 6.9 Bromsgrove Central Division

- a) Polling district LWB – Lowes Hill (531 electors) is moving from Bromsgrove West division to Bromsgrove Central division. It is proposed to combine this with polling district LWC – Shenstone (462 electors) as both polling districts vote at All Saints Church Hall.

This will give an electorate of 993 which is well under the maximum 2,250 electors that the Electoral Commission's guidance gives for the number of electors attending a polling station.

Logically it makes sense to keep the new polling district name as LWB – Lowes Hill and that polling district name LWC – Shenstone goes.

- b) Polling districts NTB – Crows Mill (9 electors) and NTD – Norton East (4 electors) are moving from Bromsgrove East division to Bromsgrove Central division. It is proposed to combine these with polling district NTA – Norton North (1,302 electors).

Electors for NTB and NTD currently vote The Wheel, St Catherine's Church for County Council elections but at Lickey End Social Club for all other elections. As electors from NTA vote at Lickey Social Club it is thought best to keep this as the polling station.

The new polling district would be 1,315 electors retaining the name NTA – Norton North. As the current polling districts of NTB and NTD would be redundant it is proposed to change the polling district name of NTC – Norton South to NTB – Norton South so the polling district letters run consecutively.

**6.9 Woodvale Division**

Polling district MAC - Lydiate Ash (86 electors) is moving from Beacon division to Woodvale division. It is proposed to combine this with polling district MAD - Staple Hill (825 electors) as both polling districts vote at St Luke's Church Centre.

Polling districts MAA and MAB also vote at St Luke's Church Centre but relate to parish wards so cannot be combined as a polling district.

This will give an electorate of 911 which is under the maximum the Electoral Commissions guidance for number of electors attending a polling station.

It also makes sense to have the new polling district letters as MAC and make MAD redundant. Officers are suggesting keeping the Lydiate Ash name but the Committee may wish to change this.

**7. RISK MANAGEMENT**

- 7.1 Polling district changes need to be agreed so that the revised register can be produced on 1 December. Any delay will mean that the register will need to be republished causing extra cost and administrative time.

**8. APPENDICES and BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Appendix 1 – Summary of proposed polling district changes.

**Electoral Matters Committee  
2024**

22 November

---

**9. REPORT SIGN OFF**

<b>Department</b>	<b>Name and Job Title</b>	<b>Date</b>
Portfolio Holder		
Head of Service	Claire Felton Assistant Director Legal, Democratic and Property Services	11 November 2024
Financial Services	Pete Carpenter Director of Resources/Deputy Chief Executive	4 November 2024
Legal Services		