

**ELECTORAL MATTERS COMMITTEE  
2024**

7 November

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**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 Baker, Leader and Portfolio Holder for Planning, Regeneration and Governance
Portfolio Holder Consulted	Yes
Relevant Head of Service	Claire Felton
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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**

**The Electoral Matters Committee is asked to RESOLVE that**

- 1.1 the proposals in respect of polling districts, as contained in the report (as amended), be approved; and**
- 1.2 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 are required 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 1st 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: [LGBCE Review Details - website link](#)
- 6.4 For the Redditch Borough area the LGBCE recommended four divisions, all of which will have two members.
- 6.5 During the consultation on draft recommendations there were two proposed divisional boundaries where the Committee submitted changes on behalf of the Council (minute 17 of 29 February 2024 meeting of this Committee).
- 6.6 The changes were rejected by the LGBCE which means some polling districts and polling places need to be reviewed.
- 6.7 Redditch West Division

The request from the Committee rejected by LGBCE was that area covered by the current polling district WCD2 (appendix 1) be included in Redditch South Division.

The polling district is currently made up of 27 electors living in Lower Grinsty Lane and vote at the Gazebo at Callow Hill. As these electors will be in Redditch West Division an extra polling station would be required. The Gazebo would not be able to accommodate this and would not make economic sense to have an extra station for 27 electors.

As it is not suitable to use the Gazebo, due to its size, it is recommended that the polling district WCD2 becomes part of polling district WCB and the electors vote at Webheath Village Hall.

It should be noted that there is no change to Borough Warding.

- 6.8 Redditch Central & East Divisions

The request of moving polling districts NRC/NRC2 wholly into the Redditch East Division and polling districts NRB/NRB2 wholly into Redditch Central Division was rejected by the LGBCE.

The map in appendix 2 shows the divisional boundary currently running down Papermill Drive (blue line on map) and that the new divisional boundary will run north to south along Tanhouse Lane before travelling

east along Church Hill Way until it joins Papermill Drive (red line on map).

This means a number of changes shown in appendix 2 are required to the polling districts within the two divisions and within the North Borough Ward. It should be noted there are no changes to the borough ward and the changes of polling districts are for administrative purposes.

Officers have studied the areas and as polling districts cannot cross boundaries suggest the following:

- The current NRB/NRB2 polling districts become
  - NRB which covers properties north of Church Hill Way and west of Ridings Lane, Bomford Hill Park, Wharrad Close and Upper Field Close. These will be in Redditch Central Division.
  - NRD which covers properties south of Church Hill Way. These will be in Redditch East Division.
- The current NRC/NRC2 polling districts become
  - NRC which covers properties north of Church Hill Way and west of Tanhouse Lane to the new boundary of NRB as described above. These will be in Redditch Central Division
  - NRE which covers properties east of, including, Tanhouse Lane and north of Church Hill Way. This will be in Redditch East Division.
- There are no actual changes to current polling district NRD other than to change the polling district letters to NRF.
- Electors will still go to their existing polling stations so will not notice a change.
- Officers suggest the following names for the polling districts although Members may be better placed to suggest alternatives:
  - NRB – Papermill
  - NRC – Church Hill North
  - NRD – Sevenacres
  - NRE – Abbeywood

It should be noted polling district names are like the polling district themselves and are for administrative purposes only.

**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 – Map of boundaries relating to changes in Redditch West Division

Appendix 2 – Map of Revised Polling Districts taking account of new Central and East County Divisions

LGBCE Website: [LGBCE website](#)

Relevant Statutory provisions