



South Tyneside Council

Review of polling districts, places and stations

How to Have Your Say

South Tyneside Council welcomes all representations.

Please send your written representations by Friday 3 November 2023 to:

The Election Team
South Tyneside Council
Town Hall
Westoe Road
South Shields
NE33 2RL

You can also email your representations to elections@southtyneside.gov.uk



Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013

Notice of Review of Polling Districts, Places and Stations

Notice is hereby given that South Tyneside Council is to carry out a review of the existing polling districts, places and stations in the Borough.

In accordance with the provisions of the Representation of the People Act 1983 and The Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013, every five years the Council must undertake a review of the polling districts and polling places within its area. The next review must take place in the period of 16 months from 1st October 2023.

The review will begin on 9 October 2023 and will be completed at a meeting of Full Council on 18 January 2024. Ward boundaries are **NOT** included in this review.

If changes are made to the polling district boundaries, as a result of the review, a revised register of electors will be published on 1 March 2024.

The aim of the review is to ensure that:

- (i) all electors have reasonable and practicable facilities for voting, and
- (ii) as far as is reasonable and practicable, polling stations are accessible to all electors, including those who are disabled.

Representations will be sought from the Acting Returning Officer for the existing Parliamentary constituencies of Jarrow and South Shields, a copy of which will have been published on our website.

Representation will also be sought from ward councillors, MPs, and candidates and election agents at the recent elections.

The Council also welcomes comments from residents, particularly disabled residents, and any person or body with expertise in access for persons with any type of disability.

Those making representations should, if possible, give alternative places that may be used as polling places.

Comments or suggestions should be made in writing to the Elections Team, South Tyneside Council, Town Hall, Westoe Road, South Shields, NE33 2RL, or by email to elections@southtyneside.gov.uk by **Friday 3 November 2023**.

Details of representations received will be published as part of the review process.

As a result of the recent Boundary Commission for England (BCE) review, the parliamentary constituencies are changing. As part of this review the council will take into the consideration the BCE changes, and the need to hold a UK Parliamentary General Election before 28 January 2025, to ensure that elections can be delivered successfully and that voting facilities are convenient and accessible for electors. Further information on the Boundary Commission's review can be found on their website at www.boundarycommissionforengland.independent.gov.uk.

Maps of existing polling districts and stations can be viewed online at southtyneside.gov.uk/elections or in person at the following locations, during office hours:

Town Hall, South Shields
Town Hall, Jarrow
Hebburn Central

Jonathan Tew
Chief Executive, South Tyneside Council

Dated: 9 October 2023



Review of polling districts, polling places and polling stations

Introduction

In accordance with the Electoral Administration Act 2006 and the Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013 the Council is carrying out a review of polling districts, polling places and polling stations.

This note sets out background information on this review.

Legal Requirements

Polling districts

For **Parliamentary** elections South Tyneside Council, like other metropolitan boroughs, must divide its parliamentary constituencies into polling districts. It must also keep the polling districts under review.

The existing Parliamentary constituencies of Jarrow and South Shields are situated wholly or partly within the Council's area

For **local** elections, the Council may divide its wards into polling districts, and in practice does so. Polling districts for local government elections should reflect as closely as possible those used for Parliamentary elections.

Polling places

The Council must have a polling place for every polling district in the constituency. The polling place is the geographical area in which the polling station is located (for example, a polling place could be a school building, while the polling station is the actual room within which voting takes place).

Polling stations

The Returning Officer for the election in question must provide a sufficient number of polling stations and allocate electors to polling stations in such a way as he/she thinks most convenient. The polling station must be within the designated polling place.

In practice, there is a close link between polling districts, polling places and polling stations. As there is little point in designating polling districts that have no suitable polling places, the availability of a suitable polling place will be an important factor in considering the designation of polling districts.

The Review

The review process is laid down by law and can be summarised as follows:

- the Council must publish notice of the review,
- the Council must consult the Acting Returning Officer for every parliamentary constituency in its area. It must also consult people with expertise in relation to access to premises or facilities for persons with different forms of disability,
- any elector in the Council's area may make representations,
- the Council considers all representations received and reaches final decisions on the designation of polling districts and polling places,
- the Council publishes its decisions, with reasons, plus all prescribed information (copies of correspondence, representations, minutes of meetings etc).

In carrying out the review, the Council must:

- seek to ensure that all the electors in the constituency have such reasonable facilities for voting as are practicable in the circumstances,
- seek to ensure that so far as is reasonable and practicable, polling places are accessible to all electors, including those who are disabled. When considering the designation of a polling place, the Council must have regard to the accessibility needs of disabled persons.

In addition, the polling place for a polling district must be within the area of the district unless special circumstances make it desirable to designate an area outside of the polling district.

Background information

The Council currently has 68 designated polling places and 80 polling stations.

Six places are portable units (port-a-cabins), ten places host 2 polling stations, one place hosts 3 polling stations.

The regulations governing the review refer to 'such **reasonable** facilities for voting as are **practicable** in the circumstances'.

In considering what is reasonable and practicable it is important to take account of both the cost and the impact on the management of elections.

As far as cost is concerned, portable units used as polling stations are the most expensive option, they are also a poor facility for voters, especially those with disabilities.

The management of elections is increasingly complex, largely as a consequence of the changes introduced by the Elections Act 2022; voter identification, accessibility and changes to rules around voters handing in postal votes at a polling station.

Practical considerations when designating polling places

Accessibility

All polling stations should have access facilities for disabled electors. This includes wheelchair users.

A polling station should be within reasonable walking distance for most electors.

In addition to any accessibility requirements already set out in other relevant legislation, The Elections Act introduced a duty for (Acting) Returning Officers to take all reasonable steps to provide equipment to support disabled voters to vote independently and in secret at the polling station, and in doing so, to have regard to any relevant guidance issued by the Electoral Commission.

The Council's Building Surveyor, with special responsibility for the Disability Discrimination Act, will be asked to advise on the accessibility needs of disabled persons in relation to the designation of polling places.

Availability

Whilst regulations permit the Returning Officer to use schools and publicly funded buildings, other buildings such as church halls, sports clubs etc. are not obliged to make their building available for use.

Suitability

When selecting a polling place there are some basic criteria which need to be considered:

- Location – is it central for the majority of the electorate?
- Access – is the building accessible for all voters including those with a disability?
- Space – is there a large enough room to use as a polling station? Could it accommodate two polling stations at a parliamentary election if required?
- Other users – will the building be used by others during the day?
- Facilities – does the building have welfare facilities for staff?

Use of Schools

The Returning Officer will only use a school as a polling station where there is no suitable alternative. Where schools are used the decision whether to close or remain open lies with the school itself.

Timetable for the review and how to have your say

The Council is seeking representations by **Friday 3 November 2023**. It will seek comments on those representations from people with disability expertise.

The Council is required to publish all representations made in connection with the review, including the representations of the Acting Returning Officer.

All representations received will be considered and final proposals will be prepared. It is intended that these proposals will be agreed at the Council meeting on 18 January 2024.

Please send your written representations by Friday 3 November 2023 to:

Election Team
South Tyneside Council
Town Hall
Westoe Road
South Shields
NE33 2RL

You can also email your representations to elections@southtyneside.gov.uk

If you need any more information, please telephone the Election Team on (0191) 424 7230.

October 2023

Ward	Station No	Polling District	Polling Station Name
Beacon & Bents	1	AA	Marine Park Primary, Hatfield Square, South Shields
	2	AB	The Nursery Unit, Hadrian Primary School, Fort Square, South Shields
	3	AC	Ocean Road Community Centre, Ocean Road, South Shields
	4	AD	The Word, Market Place, South Shields
	5	AE	The Register Office, Ceremony Entrance, 10 Broughton Road, South Shields
Biddick & All Saints	6	BA	All Saints Community Centre, Stanley Street, South Shields
	7	BB	Holy Trinity C.E. Academy, Nursery Unit, Brockley Avenue, South Shields
	8	BC	Biddick Hall Junior School, Chesterton Road, South Shields
	9	BD	Chuter Ede Community Association, Galsworthy Road, South Shields
Cleaddon Park	10, 11 & 14	CA, CB & CE	Cleaddon Park Health Centre, Prince Edward Road, South Shields *TRIPLE STATION*
	12	CC	Portable Station, The Lonnen/Hillside, Next to Cleaddon Tower Nursery, South Shields
	13	CD	The Sutton Hall, 210 / 212 Prince Edward Road, South Shields
Harton	15	DA	The Community Room, Falstone Avenue Sheltered Accommodation, Falstone Avenue, South Shields
	16	DB	St Gregory's Church Hall, 20 St Gregory's Court, South Shields
	17	DC	St Lawrence Church Hall, Centenary Avenue, South Shields
	18	DD	Cleaddon & District Working Mens Club, Fulwell Avenue, South Shields
Horsley Hill	19	EA	Westoe Crown Community Hub, Unit R9, Sea Winnings Way, South Shields
	20	EB	Territorial Army Centre (TA Centre) Entrance off Highfield Road, next to Callum Drive, South Shields
	21 & 23	EC & EE	The Community Shop, Hospitality & Hope, Horsley Hill Square, South Shields *DOUBLE STATION*
	22	ED	The Baptist Tabernacle, Marsden Road, South Shields
Simonside & Rekendyke	24 & 26	FA & FC	One Trinity Green, Eldon Street, South Shields, South Shields *DOUBLE STATION*
	25	FB	St Judes Church Hall, St Judes Terrace, South Shields
	27	FD	Portable Station, Whitehead Street, next to block 34/50, South Shields
	28	FE	Lord Blyton Primary School, Blyton Avenue, South Shields
	29	FF	Simonside Outdoor Adventure Centre, St Simon Street, South Shields

Ward	Station No	Polling District	Polling Station Name
West Park	30	GA	Hospitality and Hope, Next to Riverside Children's Centre, Hampden Street, South Shields
	31 & 32	GB & GC	Mortimer Community Centre, Reading Road, South Shields *DOUBLE STATION*
	33	GD	Talbot Road Methodist Church, Talbot Road, South Shields
Westoe	34	HA	St Michael's Church Hall, Westoe Road, South Shields
	35	HB	Communal Lounge, Glenthorpe House, West Stevenson Street, South Shields
	36	HC	South Tyneside College, Grosvenor Road Entrance, next to 1861 Lifestyle Gym, South Shields
	37	HD	Portable Station, Opposite 33 Harton House Road, South Shields
Whitburn & Marsden	38	JA	The Lake Pub, 69 Lake Avenue, South Shields
	39	JB	Marsden Primary School, Mill Lane, Whitburn
	40	JC	Our Place, 19 Wellands Lane, Whitburn
	41	JD	Whitburn Library, Mill Lane, Whitburn
Whiteleas	42	KA	Harton and Westoe Collieries Welfare, Low Lane, South Shields
	43	KB	Whiteleas Community Centre (St Mary & St Martins), Whiteleas Way, South Shields
	44 & 45	KC & KD	St Oswalds Church Hall, Gainsborough Avenue, South Shields *DOUBLE STATION*
Bede	46	LA	Bilton Hall Community Trust at Low Simonside Community Centre, Taunton Avenue, Jarrow
	47	LB	Portable Station, Peel Gardens, South Shields
	48	LC	Portable Station, Perth Ave/Tasmania Road, South Shields
	49	LD	Simonside Primary School, Glasgow Road, Jarrow
	50	LE	Portable Station, Kirkstone Avenue, Opposite Shops, Jarrow
Boldon Colliery	51	MA	St Nicholas Church, Hedworth Lane, Boldon Colliery
	52	MB	Boldon Village Hall, North Road, Boldon Colliery
	53 & 54	MC & MD	West Boldon Primary School, Hindmarch Drive, West Boldon *DOUBLE STATION*
Cleadow & East Boldon	55	NA	Cleadow Methodist Church Hall, Sunderland Road, Cleadow Village
	56	NB	The Little Theatre, 5 Boldon Lane, Cleadow Village
	57 & 58	NC & ND	Scout Hut, Rear of Grey Horse Pub, Front Street, East Boldon *DOUBLE STATION*
Fellgate & Hedworth	59	PA	Communal Lounge, Calf Close House, Calf Close Lane, Jarrow
	60	PB	Nursery Unit, Hedworthfield Primary, Linkway, Jarrow
	61 & 62	PC & PD	Hedworthfield Community Association, Cornhill, Jarrow *DOUBLE STATION*

Ward	Station No	Polling District	Polling Station Name
Hebburn North	63	QA	The Cabin, School Street Play Centre, School Street, Hebburn
	64	QB	Byron Avenue Hall, Access via Windsor Crescent, Hebburn
	65	QC	The Masonic Hall, Aln Street, Hebburn
	66	QD	St Aloysius Church Hall, Coquet Street (off Argyle Street), Hebburn
Hebburn South	67	RA	St Johns Church Hall, Canning Street, Hebburn
	68 & 70	RB & RD	Hartleyburn & Clegwell Community Hub, Crawley Square, Hebburn *DOUBLE STATION*
	69 & 71	RC & RE	Community Room, Lakeside Hall, Lilac Walk, Hebburn *DOUBLE STATION*
Monkton	72	SA	Community Room, Jubilee Court, Hebburn
	73	SB	Communal Lounge, Fernyhough Hall, Ushaw Road, Hebburn
	74	SC	The Lord Nelson Public House, Marquee in car park, Monkton Lane, Jarrow
	75	SD	Monkton Park Methodist Church Hall, Wood Terrace, Jarrow
	76	SE	Lukes Lane Community Centre, Marine Drive, Hebburn
Primrose	77	TA	Millennium PHAB Club / Jarrow Focus, Grange Road, Jarrow
	78	TB	Jarrow Cross CE Primary School, Borough Road, Jarrow
	79 & 80	TC & TD	Primrose Community Centre, Lambton Terrace, Jarrow *DOUBLE STATION*