

REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICTS AND POLLING PLACES FOR PRESTON CITY COUNCIL

Background

The Local Government Boundary Commission for England have undertaken a review of the electoral arrangements for Preston. The review examined how many councillors are needed; how many wards there should be; their boundaries and what the wards should be called and how many councillors should represent each ward.

The outcome of the review will result in Preston being represented by 48 councillors, nine fewer than present. There will be 16 wards, six fewer than there are now with three councillors representing all wards. The boundaries of all wards will change.

The Preston (Electoral Changes) Order 2018 was made on 25 April 2018 and requires elections of all councillors for the new wards to take place on the ordinary day of election of councillors, 2 May 2019.

In order to implement the changes a full review of polling districts, polling places and polling stations has commenced. The review requires the mapping of all new wards and includes proposals for revised polling districts and polling stations.

In order to retain the boundaries of county council electoral divisions, parliamentary constituencies and parishes, administrative boundaries have been identified and retained.

The Council has powers to change polling places and polling district boundaries, but not Parliamentary, County, Ward or Parish boundaries.

Definition of terms

- **A Polling District** is the geographical sub division of an electoral ward. The Council is responsible for dividing its area into polling districts for UK Parliamentary elections and for keeping polling districts under review.

When designating polling districts, 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.

- **A Polling Place** is the building or area in which polling station(s) are located.
- **A Polling station** is the room or area within the polling place where the process of voting takes place, and must be located in the polling place designated for the particular polling district.

The Council must-

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

Review Process

The council is required to publish notice of the holding of a review and publish details of their proposals for polling districts and polling places.

This document contains maps of the new Wards together with proposals for polling districts and polling stations and has been sent to:

- All Preston City councillors
- Lancashire County councillors (representing Preston electoral divisions)
- Parish Clerks
- Returning Officers for Lancashire County Council, Fylde and Wyre Borough Councils
- Members of Parliament – Fylde, Preston, Wyre & Preston North
- Disability Equality
- Age Concern

In addition, as part of the review process at the elections in May 2018 a feedback form on the suitability for each of the existing polling places was completed by Polling Station Inspectors and Presiding Officers.

Draft Proposals

In preparing the review, officers have scrutinized areas and where necessary identified alternative polling district areas and polling places located within the new wards.

In considering the suitability of polling places the following factors have been taken into account - the availability of suitable premises, accessibility, public safety and location in relation to the centres of population within the area.

Officers have proposed (where necessary) options for revised polling districts within each ward and designated the most suitable polling place for each area. Where 'no change' from the current arrangements has been proposed, the existing polling district and or polling place is deemed to be the most suitable in meeting the above criteria.

What happens now?

Anyone wishing to make representations on the proposals should be made in writing to the Head of Electoral Services, Town Hall, Lancaster Road, Preston, PR1 2RL by no later than 31 August 2018.

Any submissions that are proposing alternative polling places/stations should provide details of alternative premises that may be used as a polling place.

For further information, please telephone 01772 906115 / 906715 or e-mail p.welsh@preston.gov.uk or c.standing@preston.gov.uk

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