

Notice of Review of Polling District and Places

Notice is hereby given in accordance with Section 18 of the Representation of the People Act 1983 that Swale Borough Council is conducting a review of its polling districts and places within the Sittingbourne and Sheppey Parliamentary Constituency and the part of the Faversham and Mid Kent constituency that falls within the Swale district. The aim of the review is to ensure electors have reasonable facilities for voting as are practicable in the circumstances; and as far as reasonable and practicable, polling places are accessible to all electors, and consider the needs of people with disabilities.

We are seeking views from electors within the area on the current arrangements, particularly those in rural areas and those electors impacted by school closures because their school is a polling station. Where possible, those making representations are encouraged to suggest alternative options for polling places.

Comments should be sent to elections@swale.gov.uk or in writing to the address at the end of this notice. Please use subject heading 'Polling District Review 2024'

The Council is responsible for setting the polling districts (a geographical area within a ward or a parish) and polling places (a geographical area within a polling district that the polling station must be located within). The Returning Officer is responsible for locating the polling station, which must be within the polling place. The current arrangements can be viewed on our website:

<https://swale.gov.uk/news-and-your-council/voting-and-elections/find-a-polling-station>

- Views are welcome on the current arrangements - please respond by 14 November 2024.
- Proposed arrangements and representations received (including the views of the (Acting) Returning Officers) will be published on our website on 14 October 2024. Electors may make comments on the proposed arrangements until 14 November 2024.
- Final proposals will be considered and recommendations will be made to Council on 29 January 2025.

Please note that:

- a) Anybody making representations should be aware that, upon completion of the review, all correspondence and representations must, by law, also be published.
- b) We are required to conduct a review every five years. The next full review period runs from 14 October 2024 and must be completed by 31 January 2025.
- c) The Local Government Boundary Commission is currently carrying out a review of our ward boundaries, and new arrangements will take effect in May 2027. A further polling district and place review will be required when changes to ward boundaries are known.