



**Review**  
of  
**Polling Districts**  
and  
**Polling Places**

**2021**

Any comments, alternative proposals or other views regarding the polling districts or polling places should be notified to the following office by no later than Thursday 30 September 2021 to:-

Polling District and Places Review  
Electoral Services  
London Borough of Newham,  
Newham Town Hall,  
Barking Road  
London  
E6 2RP

telephone: 020 8430 2000

email: [elections@newham.gov.uk](mailto:elections@newham.gov.uk)

## **Background**

The London Borough of Newham is undertaking the 2021 statutory review of its polling district, polling places and polling stations.

Under the provisions within the Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013, the previous statutory review of all the polling districts and polling places was undertaken in 2019.

The Local Government Boundary Commission has since reviewed all of the ward boundaries in Newham, which has subsequently seen the number of wards being increased from 20 to 24.

This has resulted in the need to further review all polling districts, places and stations before the changes are implemented and in time for the Local Elections to be held on Thursday 5 May 2022.

Views are invited from residents, political parties and local councillors, persons or groups possessing particular expertise in relation to access to premises or facilities for persons who have different forms of disability and local community groups.

Your comments on current arrangements or representations on proposed alternative arrangements should be sent to us through the consultation website, in writing or via email

## **The Proposals**

The following pages will show the ward map, the new proposed polling districts, existing polling stations and street lists. Along with any changes recommended by the Acting Returning Officer.

## **The Rationale**

To ensure that:-

- (a) as far as possible polling places are accessible to all.
- (b) polling places fall within the polling district wherever possible.
- (c) the use of schools be avoided where suitable alternative premises are available.
- (d) account be taken of justifiable complaints by electors.

As schools are generally at the heart of the community and are more likely to be Disability Discrimination Act compliant than private buildings, the continuation of their use for polling would seem to be unavoidable. Also the Representation of the People Act 1983 gives the Returning Officer the right to use such buildings free of charge only reimbursing heating, lighting and cleaning costs. However the timing of elections often clashes with examinations and schools are finding it more and more difficult to accommodate polling. Therefore this review allows the opportunity to ask all

Head-teachers of proposed polling places to consider if there is a separate part of their school that could be used for polling which would be more convenient for them, and where appropriate allowing for the school to remain open.

There is also an on-going accessibility audit, checklists are completed for each venue. Access information is supplied by the Presiding Officer and the Polling Station Inspector for every polling place at each election, and after the election it is reviewed by the Electoral Services Office. This is reviewed after each election and any relevant information has been considered whilst undertaking this preliminary review.

Consideration has been given to projected elector ratios that were used as part of the Ward Boundary Review in relation to the size of venues.

## The Review

The aim of the review is to ensure that:

All electors have reasonable facilities for voting as are practicable in the circumstances; and that

So far as is reasonable and practicable that the polling places are accessible to all electors (including disabled persons) having regard to the accessibility needs of disabled persons.

To attempt to take into account current polling districts forming new polling districts or a major part thereof, where this can be achieved to ensure continuity where possible;

To attempt to take into account natural boundaries for example railway lines, major roads and rivers.

Details of the proposals can be viewed on Tuesdays and Thursdays by appointment at the Electoral Services Office, Newham Town Hall, Barking Road, E6 2RP, any library in the Borough and on the Council's website [Current consultations – Newham Council](#)

Any elector in the Borough is invited to make comments on these proposals or to offer alternative suggestions in writing to the address or email on the first page by no later than Thursday 30 September 2021. Please note that any comments that do not support these proposals should give alternatives.

All representations received will be given due consideration and made available for public inspection and also published on the website at the conclusion of the review.

## **The Timetable and list of consultees**

The next page has the timetable and a list of those to be consulted.

Now to 2 <sup>nd</sup> July 2021	Add Boundary Commission data onto the Council's electoral management software and quality assure the data migration of properties to new wards.
5 <sup>th</sup> – 19 <sup>th</sup> July 2021	Formulation of draft proposals for new polling districts and polling places Approval from Chief Executive to publish proposals
July 2021	Member Briefing
19th July 2021	Public Notice of commencement of the Polling District and station review
19 July to 30 September	Statutory Notice and Consultation Period (The period has been extended to allow schools a full opportunity to participate and, due to the timing, they will be given advance notice of the consultation period)  Proposals deposited at all public libraries in the Borough, and the Election Services Office, also on the internet. Social media. The following parties have been advised of the Review taking place and the Consultation Period: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All Ward Councillors</li> <li>• Greater London AM for City &amp; East.</li> <li>• Members of Parliament for East Ham and West Ham Constituencies.</li> <li>• Local Political Parties</li> <li>• Persons who are considered to have particular interest in the premises or facilities used for voting</li> <li>• Relevant Community Groups</li> </ul> Liaison with Communications for communications plan
October 2021	Consideration of consultation responses and preparation of final proposals Chief Executive decision on final proposals.
November 2021	Notification of final agreed proposals and comms
1 December 2021	Publication of Register including amended polling districts
1 February 2022	Publication of Register – can be used to pick up any identified errors in December register
Jan to May 2022	Comms plan to raise awareness of changes with electorate
5 May 2022	First elections held with new ward patterns

## The Final Proposals

The outcome of the review will be reported to the Governance Committee and if agreed will be put before the Council in time to enable the Electoral Registration Officer to make any alterations necessary to the polling districts when it is next revised on 1 December 2021.

Althea Loderick  
Acting Returning Officer