

(Acting) Returning Officer Comment for the Statutory review of polling districts, places and stations for Redditch Borough Council

This review is an essential step following a comprehensive local review, which was undertaken as a result of the Electoral Review of Redditch, wherein new wards for our authority were established.

As a result of such a thorough local review, my comment pertains to all polling districts and places within Redditch. During this process, a cross-party working group collaborated closely with our officers to thoughtfully evaluate each ward. The objective was to review the existing polling places and to consider the introduction of new ones where necessary. The primary focus of our assessment included:

- **Accessibility and Convenience for Electors:** Ensuring that all polling places are easily accessible to our electorate, including those with disabilities, to promote inclusivity and make voting as straightforward as possible.
- **Natural Boundaries:** Considering natural geographical boundaries to ensure that polling districts and places align with the natural divisions within our community.
- **Community Cohesion:** Recognising the importance of community cohesion and its impact on our electoral process, ensuring that wherever possible, polling districts and places are appropriately located.

The result of the local review can be found in the “Spreadsheet of recommendations from the Electoral Matters Committee regarding Local Review” of the Polling Review Webpage. I can confirm that I also endorse the comments recorded in the Local Review Comments endorsed by officers and Electoral Matters Committee column.

As part of this statutory review, we are committed to consulting with local organisations and charities specifically on accessibility. We value their expertise and insights in this regard, as they play a vital role in advocating for the rights and needs of our community members. The involvement of residents also remains crucial in this process. We welcome any comments and suggestions regarding our polling districts, places, and stations. We ask that you provide any comments you may have using any of the methods listed on our webpage during the consultation period. Your feedback, along with the valuable input of local organisations and charities, will help us make informed decisions that reflect the diverse needs and preferences of our electorate.

Thank you for your participation in this important process, which ultimately aims to enhance the democratic experience for all residents of Redditch.