Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places – Terms of Reference

Designation of polling districts, as prescribed by s18A Representation of the People Act 1983 (RPA 1983)

* The Northumberland County Council area must be divided in polling districts for the purpose of parliamentary elections.
* Keep the polling districts under review.
* The Council must seek to ensure that all electors in its area shall have such reasonable facilities for voting as are practicable in the circumstances.
* Each parish must be in a separate polling district.

The boundaries and names of Electoral Divisions are NOT covered by the review.

Designation of polling places, as prescribed by s18B RPA 1983

* The Council must designate a ‘polling place’ within each of the polling districts and keep them under review.
* The Council must seek to ensure that so far as is reasonable and practicable, that each polling place is accessible to electors who are disabled and also have regard to the accessibility to disabled persons of potential polling stations it is considering designating as a polling place.
* A polling place must be within the area of its respective polling district unless special circumstances make it desirable to designate it wholly or partly outside the district.
* The polling place must be small enough to indicate to electors in different parts of the polling district how they will be able to reach the polling station.
* If no polling place is designated for a polling district, the polling district itself is to be taken to the polling place.

**Glossary of Terms**

Division

A ‘division’ is the electoral unit of the ‘first tier’ of local government. County Divisions combine to make up the Northumberland County Council area.

Parish Ward

Parish councils are the ‘third tier’ of local government and some are divided into parish wards. Parishes and parish wards are NOT subject to the review.

Polling District

A polling district is a geographical sub-division of a division or parish area, which is designated by the local authority.

Polling Place

A polling place is not defined in legislation but may be a location or building in which a polling station can be situated.