

EXETER CITY COUNCIL REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICTS & POLLING PLACES/STATIONS 2024

Information Sheet

General Information

1.1 The last full statutory review of Parliamentary polling districts and places in Exeter, was undertaken in 2019. There has been a minor interim review completed in 2022. The Council is now required to carry out a further scheduled statutory review to be completed in 2024.

- The Parliamentary polling districts and places are replicated for local government elections.
- The Act requires each local authority to undertake a review every five years. The last statutory review was undertaken in 2019. An interim review was undertaken in 2022.
- The final decision on the situation of polling stations rests with the (Acting) Returning Officer.
- It should be noted that City Ward, County Division and Parliamentary Constituency boundaries cannot be changed under this process.
- A **polling district** is a geographical sub-division of an electoral area, i.e. a UK Parliamentary constituency, a ward or an electoral division.
- A **polling place** is a geographical area in which a polling station is located. In Exeter polling places are the same as the polling district to allow a greater degree of flexibility in deciding where a polling station should be.
- A **polling station** is the actual room or building where the process of voting takes place and must be located within the polling place designated for the particular polling district. The (Acting) Returning Officer for the particular election must provide a sufficient number of polling stations and allot the electors to those polling stations in such manner as he or she thinks the most convenient.

List of Current Polling Stations by City Ward

Address	District	Electorate **
Alphington Ward		
West Exe Technology College, Hatherleigh Road, Exeter, EX2 9JU	AA^	3179
Alphington Sports Club, Church Road, Exeter, EX2 8SW	AB	1213
Alphington Village Hall, Alphington Community Assoc, Ide Lane, Exeter, EX2 8UT	AC	2071
Duryard & St. James Ward		
Kay House, University of Exeter, Lower Argyle Road, Exeter EX4 4RG	BA	2051
Exeter Cricket Club Pavilion, Prince of Wales Road, Exeter, EX4 4PR	BB	2667
St Sidwell's C of E Primary School, York Road, Exeter, EX4 6PG	BC^	2764
Exwick Ward		
St. Gabriels C of E School, Landhayes Road, Exeter, EX4 2BY	CA	2463
Exwick Sports Hub, Exeter College, Exwick Road, EX4 2BQ	CB	1967
Exwick Parish Hall, Station Road, Exeter, EX4 2FD	CC	1105
Exwick Community Centre, Kinnerton Way, Exeter, EX4 2PR	CD	1870
Heavitree Ward		
South West Baptist Assoc., Wonford Baptist Chapel, Wonford Street, Exeter, EX2 5DL	DA	1443
Scout Hut, South Lawn Terrace, Exeter, EX1 2SN	DB^	2649
The Community Room, Ladysmith Infant School, Off Pretoria Road, Exeter, EX1 2PS	DC	1174
Community Room, Hamlin Gardens, Exeter, EX1 3AA	DD	611
Community Centre, Bodley Close, Exeter, EX1 3LG	DE	993
Mincinglake & Whipton Ward		
Beacon Heath Church, King Arthur's Road, Exeter, EX4 9BE	EA	1564
The Beacon, Pendragon House, Beacon Lane, Exeter, EX4 8LZ	EB	2139
The Whipton Institute, 20 Whipton Village Road, Exeter EX4 8AW	EC	821
St. Boniface Church, Brookway, Exeter EX1 3JH	ED	2085
Newtown & St. Leonard's Ward		
Victoria Park Club, Lyndhurst Road, Exeter, EX2 4NX	FA	1160
St Leonard's Church Centre, Topsham Road, Exeter, Devon, EX2 4NG	FB,FBA	1710
St Luke's Campus, College Road, Exeter, Devon, EX1 2LT	FC	970
Belmont Chapel, Western Way, Exeter, EX1 2DB	FD	2061
Belmont Bowling Club, The Green, Blackboy Road, Exeter, EX4 6SS	FE	1005
Pennsylvania Ward		
Stoke Hill Junior School, Stoke Hill, Exeter EX4 7DP	GA	1750
St James' Church Hall, Mount Pleasant Road, Exeter, EX4 7AH	GB	2292
St Marks Church Hall, St Marks Avenue, Exeter, EX1 2PX	GC	2188
Baptist Church Hall, Pinhoe Road, Exeter, EX4 7HZ	GD	1251
Pinhoe Ward		
Exeter Harriers Athletic Club, The Pavilion, Arena Park, Exeter EX4 8NT	HA*	1435
Pinhoe Community Centre, America Hall & Sunnylands Room, De La Rue Way, Exeter EX4 8PX	HB*	2368
Pinhoe United Reform Church, Old Pinn Lane, Exeter Ex1 3RF	HC*	2957
St Lukes Cof E School, Harts Lane, Exeter, EX1 3RD	HD*	979
Priory Ward		
Community Room, Grandisson Court, Off Bishop Westall Road, Exeter, EX2 6NJ	JA,JAA	728
Countess Wear Village Hall, 28 School Lane, Exeter, EX2 6LB	JB	1242
Wynstream Primary School, Burnthouse Lane, Exeter, EX2 6AY	JC	2459
Wonford Methodist Church, Church Hall, Burnthouse Lane, Exeter, EX2 6NF	JD,JDA	2271
St. David's Ward		
Sea Cadet HQ, Canal Banks, Haven Road, Exeter, EX2 8DU	KA	1452
Community Room, Abbeville Close, Topsham Road, Exeter, EX2 4SJ	KB,KBA	953
Community Room, 66 Weavers Court, Exeter, EX2 4EF	KC	714
Wesley Room, Mint Methodist Church, Fore Street, Exeter, EX4 3AT	KD	1781

Address	District	Electorate **
Exeter Community Centre Trust, 17 St David's Hill, Exeter, EX4 3RG	KE	2405
St. Loyes Ward		
Clyst Heath Nursery & Community Primary School, Royal Crescent, Exeter, EX2 7QT	LA*	2399
Woodwater Academy, Woodwater Lane, Exeter, EX2 5AW	LB*	1522
St Peter`s High School, Quarry Lane, Exeter, EX2 5AP	LC*	1251
Community Room, Russet House, Russet Avenue, Exeter, EX1 3QB	LD*	1880
St.Thomas Ward		
Montgomery Primary School, Redvers Road, Exeter, EX4 1BS	MA	1904
St Thomas Church Hall, Church Road, Exeter, EX2 9BQ	MB^	2825
St Thomas Baptist Church, Dorset Avenue, Exeter, EX4 1LZ	MC	1771
Bowhill Primary School, Buddle Lane, Exeter, EX4 1JT	MD	887
Topsham Ward		
Matthews Hall, Fore Street, Topsham, Exeter, EX3 0HF	NA* ^	3332
Topsham Town AFC, Exeter Road, Exeter, EX3 OLT	NB*	1662
100 Club, Wear Barton Road, Exeter, EX2 7EH	NC*	1759
Newcourt Community Centre, Blakeslee Drive, Exeter, EX2 7FN	ND*	1519

*Polling station located in Exmouth & Exeter East Constituency at a Parliamentary election.

**Inc. local government electors

^Double station if required

Current Arrangement of Polling Districts

Maps are available upon request.

What the Rules say*.

- the authority must seek to ensure that all electors in a constituency in its area have such reasonable facilities for voting as are practicable in the circumstances;
- the authority must seek to ensure that so far as is reasonable and practicable every polling place for which it is responsible is accessible to electors who are disabled;
- the authority must have regard to the accessibility to disabled persons of potential polling stations in any place which it is considering designating as a polling place;
- the polling place for a polling district must be an area in the district, unless special circumstances make it desirable to designate any area wholly or partly outside the district;
- the polling place must be small enough to indicate to electors in different parts of the district how they will be able to reach the polling station.

*(Representation of the People Act 1983 s.18)

Please also note that the Council must publish any correspondence submitted in respect of this review.

Access

All polling stations should have access facilities for disabled electors. This includes wheelchair users. There are various building regulations which determine how adaptations can be made. It is not always possible for the owners of buildings to make permanent structural changes. Where permanent facilities are not possible, Electoral Services try to make temporary provision, usually by means of a portable ramp. However, it must be remembered that, on occasion these ramps can cause a hazard and thus it is not always a practical solution.

A polling station should be within reasonable walking distance for most electors.

Practical Considerations

Availability

There is no such thing as a purpose built polling station. We have to adapt and use the buildings which are available in the locality. Whilst regulations permit the Returning Officer to use schools, the owners of other buildings (Church halls, sports clubs etc.) have no such obligation.

Suitability

When selecting a polling station there are some basic criteria which need to be considered.

- Geographically central for the majority of the electorate.
- Appropriate for democratic use.
- Health and safety arrangements
- Enough useable space.
- Exclusive use.
- Access
- Welfare facilities for staff
- Cost

Topography

Considerations such as steep hills and other natural boundaries, railway lines, busy main roads etc. need to be taken into account.

Other Factors

Use of Schools

The current policy is that schools should not be used, where there is a reasonable and viable alternative. This is not always possible. Whilst regulations permit the Returning Officer to use schools as polling stations, every effort will be made to ensure that the school remains open on polling day, although ultimately this decision lies with the school itself. Any alternate suggestions for other suitable venues will be considered.

Overall Number of Polling Stations

There are no legislative limits on the number of polling stations an authority can provide. However, when considering numbers, there needs to be sufficient to run efficient and effective elections, which are as accessible and convenient to the electorate as possible and which follow the principles set out above.

Timetable

Publication of Notice of the Review – 12 August 2024

Consultation period – 12 August – 27 September 2024

Publication of the Returning Officers representations – within 30 days of receipt

Report to Executive Committee – 3 December 2024

Submit to Council – 17 December 2024

Publication of Review Report – by 24 December 2024

Implementation of report recommendations – any recommendations will be implemented with the publication of the Register of Electors on 1 February 2025.

Potential Issues and Considerations

Below is information relating to some known concerns relating to polling stations.

Pennsylvania Ward

The closure of the Sylvania Community Hall in Mincinglake Valley Park will mean that the polling district boundary will need to be amended to include Stoke Hill Junior School, which served as a replacement in the recent UK Parliamentary General Election.

Alternate suggestions for any other current polling station will be also be given consideration.

Point of Contact

Electoral Services Office
Exeter City Council
Civic Centre
Paris Street
EXETER
EX1 1JN

(01392) 265141

electoral.services@exeter.gov.uk

www.exeter.gov.uk

List of Consultees

The (Acting) Returning Officer, Exeter City Council (Exeter Constituency)
The (Acting) Returning Officer, East Devon District Council (Exmouth and Exeter East Constituency)
The Returning Officer, Devon County Council
All Exeter City Councillors
All Devon County Councillors for Exeter
Steve Race MP (Exeter Constituency)
David Reed MP (Exmouth and Exeter East Constituency)
Exeter Labour Party
Exeter Conservative Association
Exeter Liberal Democrats
Exeter Green Party
East Devon Labour Party
East Devon Conservative Association
East Devon Liberal Democrats
East Devon Green Party
Reform UK
Age UK Exeter
Action on Hearing Loss
Devon Insight
Living Options Devon
Step One
Scope
University of Exeter Students Guild
Estuary League of Friends