

**STAFFORDSHIRE MOORLANDS DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**Licensing and Regulatory Committee**

**15 November 2024**

<b>TITLE:</b>	<b>Staffordshire County Council Boundary Changes</b>
<b>PORTFOLIO HOLDER:</b>	<b>Councillor Mike Gledhill – Council Leader</b>
<b>CONTACT OFFICER:</b>	<b>Paul Rushworth – Corporate Services Manager (Legal and Elections) and Deputy Monitoring Officer Marion Hancock – Senior Elections Officer</b>
<b>WARDS INVOLVED:</b>	<b>Biddulph North, Biddulph South &amp; Endon Leek South and Leek Rural County Divisions</b>

**Appendices Attached – Appendix A LEEK SOUTH DIVISION  
Appendix B CHURNET VALLEY DIVISION  
Appendix C LEEK RURAL DIVISION  
Appendix D BIDDULPH SOUTH & ENDON DIVISION**

**1. Reason for the Report**

- 1.1 The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) is required to review the electoral boundaries of every council periodically. It has recently conducted a review of Staffordshire County Council. The County Council's previous boundary review was completed in 2012.
- 1.2 This report explains the outcome of the recent review and makes recommendations in respect of the proposed changes. The changes will come into force at the next scheduled County Council elections on 1 May 2025.

**2. Recommendation**

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Committee:
- i) Notes the outcome of the review and the changes to divisional boundaries, polling districts, polling places and polling stations.
  - ii) Approves that the revised arrangements will take effect from 1 December 2024.

**3. Executive Summary**

- 3.1 The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) has

recently carried out a formal electoral review of Staffordshire County Council to ensure that the Electoral Divisions in the County are the most appropriate to help ensure that the Council carries out its responsibilities effectively and to provide that the number of electors represented by each councillor is broadly consistent.

3.2 The review has considered information gathered from a consultation period which took place over a 10 week period from August 2023 to October 2023. The final recommendations were published on 15<sup>th</sup> May 2024 and will now be enacted under the Staffordshire (Electoral Changes) Order 2024.

3.3 The outcome of the review has resulted in required changes to the Electoral Divisions in which some of the electorate in the District will vote in future elections. The details of these divisional changes are outlined in the Appendices attached.

**4. How this report links to Corporate Priorities**

4.1 The proposals within the report help to support the environment by enabling residents to vote at suitable accessible facilities in the interests of the democratic process.

**5. Alternative Options**

5.1 The options for proposed changes are found within the report and appendices. The changes are proposed after the Staffordshire County Council’s review.

**6. Implications**

6.1	<u>Community safety, including safeguarding and prevention of terrorism</u>  No implications
6.2	<u>Workforce</u>  No implications
6.3	<u>Equality and Diversity/Equality Impact Assessment</u>  This report has been prepared in accordance with the Council’s Diversity and Equality Policies
6.4	<u>Financial Considerations</u>  None directly
6.5	<u>Legal</u>

	The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) has conducted a review of Staffordshire County Council and they are required to review the electoral arrangements of every council in England from time to time. The proposals are due to be enacted under the Staffordshire (Electoral Changes) Order 2024
6.6	<u>Climate Change and Sustainability</u> No implications
6.7	<u>Conservation and Enhancement of Biodiversity</u> No implications
6.8	<u>Consultation</u> A full consultation exercise has been undertaken ahead of analysing the options which are found in the appendices.
6.9	<u>Risk Assessment</u> All buildings have been risk assessed

Mark Trillo  
**Executive Director (Governance & Commissioning)**

**Web Links and  
Background Papers**

**Contact details**

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**7. Detail**

- 7.1 Staffordshire Moorlands District Council's area is split into 7 divisions, each represented by 1 councillor, to represent the district at Staffordshire County Council. A review of the County's electoral boundaries has recently been carried out by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE), with the aim to create 'electoral equality', whereby the number of electors per councillor is as even as possible across the County area. The objective of the review is to enable the County Council to govern its area most effectively.
- 7.2 The LGBCE review considered all relevant information in relation to electoral arrangements at the County, and the feedback gathered from a public consultation period which took place over a 10 week period from August 2023 to October 2023. The final recommendations were published on 15<sup>th</sup> May 2024

and will now be enacted under the Staffordshire (Electoral Changes) Order 2024 to take effect at the next County elections scheduled for May 2025.

- 7.3 The changes to the divisional boundaries resulting from the review have meant that some residents in Staffordshire Moorlands will now vote in different divisions, as detailed below:

Some electors in polling district JJJ, currently Leek South Division, move into a new polling district JJ Biddulph South & Endon Division – see **Appendix A**

Electors from polling districts JJJA and KKKA, currently Leek South Division, move into Biddulph South & Endon Division – see **Appendix B**

Electors from polling district HH, currently Leek Rural Division, move into Biddulph South & Endon Division – see **Appendix C**

Some electors from polling district UU, currently Biddulph South & Endon Division, move into new polling district YYA Biddulph North Division – see **Appendix D**

- 7.4 The electoral services team at the Council has worked to change the divisional boundaries on our mapping systems. The team will now write to all affected electors to notify them of the changes.
- 7.5 As a separate issue it is proposed to use the Scout Hut at Fowlchurch Road, Leek as a temporary replacement polling station because the existing polling station at Brough Park Leisure Centre is unavailable while the Leisure centre is being refurbished. The ward members and the County Councillor have been consulted about the proposed change. The new polling station is considered appropriate for the conduct of the poll having regard for the need to ensure a effective voter experience.