



**9 August 2019**

## **Have your say on polling stations review**

Uttlesford voters are being asked for their views on the polling districts and polling places that are used for elections in the district.

Each polling district has a designated polling place (a building such as a village hall where a polling station is located) for use on election days, providing suitable facilities which are accessible to all electors.

Like every local authority, Uttlesford District Council is required to review their polling districts and polling places every five years.

As part of the review, the council would like to hear from residents about their thoughts on the current polling districts and the suitability of the buildings and rooms that are used on election days for polling purposes.

Every effort is made to ensure that polling stations are accessible to all, and whilst it can be difficult to find the perfect premises and to secure permission to use them, the council aims to find the best possible solution.

Dawn French, the Returning Officer for the Uttlesford district and Saffron Walden parliamentary constituency, said: "We want everyone who is eligible to vote to be able to use their democratic right, and it is important that polling stations and districts are fit for purpose and meet the needs of electors.

"We would like to hear people's views on the polling places which have good accessibility and those that don't, and the reasons why. It would also be very helpful to hear suggestions about suitable alternatives."

You can view the current polling district map, polling scheme listing the current polling places, and some statistics for each of the polling districts on the council website – visit [www.uttlesford.gov.uk/pollingreview2019](http://www.uttlesford.gov.uk/pollingreview2019).

### **How do I have my say?**

The feedback period runs until **7 October 2019**.

The easiest way to take part in the consultation is online, via [www.uttlesford.gov.uk/pollingreview2019](http://www.uttlesford.gov.uk/pollingreview2019).

You can also respond by email to [ero@uttlesford.gov.uk](mailto:ero@uttlesford.gov.uk), or write to: The Returning Officer, Uttlesford District Council, Council Offices, London Road, Saffron Walden, Essex CB11 4ER.

We would like to hear from electors, elected members, town and parish councils and political parties in the Uttlesford District and within the Saffron Walden parliamentary constituency.

The feedback received will be acknowledged, considered and published in a council report, with a decision on the final scheme made in November.

## **ENDS**

### **NOTES**

What are polling districts, places and stations?

**Polling district** – is a geographical sub-division of electoral area (or ward). An electoral area may be a UK parliamentary constituency (e.g Saffron Walden), a district ward, a county electoral division, or a parish or parish ward.

**Polling place** – is the area or building where a polling station is located.

**Polling station** – is where the voting takes place, for example a room (station) within a community centre (place). You can have more than one polling station in a polling place.

- For more details on this media release please contact the Communications Team on 01799 510442 or [media@uttlesford.gov.uk](mailto:media@uttlesford.gov.uk)
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