

Bath & North East Somerset Council

MEETING	Council	
MEETING	21 November 2024	
TITLE:	Change of electoral ward name from 'Twerton' to 'Twerton & Whiteway'	
WARD:	Twerton	
AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM		
List of attachments to this report: Appendix 1 Consultation responses		

1 THE ISSUE

- 1.1 To decide whether to change the name of the electoral ward from 'Twerton' to 'Twerton & Whiteway'.

2 RECOMMENDATION

The Council is asked to:

- 2.1 Determine whether or not to change the name of the electoral ward from 'Twerton' to 'Twerton & Whiteway'.

3 THE REPORT

- 3.1 Under the Representation of the People Act 1983 (RPA 1983), every local authority in Great Britain has the statutory responsibility to divide its area into polling districts, to designate polling places for those polling districts, and to keep the polling districts and polling places under review.

- 3.2 The Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013 introduced an additional requirement whereby local authorities must review all polling districts and polling

places within the period of 16 months starting on 1 October of every fifth year after 1 October 2013.

- 3.3 The Council undertook its last review of polling districts and polling places between 23 October 2023 and 30 November 2023.
- 3.4 During the consultation for the polling district review, the Council received responses from residents within the Twerton ward proposing a change of name for that ward from 'Twerton' to 'Twerton and Whiteway'.
- 3.5 In response to the requests received the Council consulted the ward Councillors with a view to consulting the residents within the ward upon a change of name for the ward. Both ward Councillors confirmed agreement to a consultation being undertaken.
- 3.6 The Council's Communications Team in conjunction with Electoral Services undertook a 12-week consultation, the results of which are set out in Appendix 1.
- 3.7 Given the results, the Council is requested to decide whether to agree to a change in name for the ward.
- 3.8 A two thirds majority must vote in favour of a change of name to enable the change to take effect.
- 3.9 The change of name will only become effective after the Local Government Boundary Commission for England have been given notice of the change.
- 3.10 If the Council resolve to change the name of the ward with the required two thirds majority the Monitoring Officer will arrange to serve the notice on the Local Government Boundary Commission for England and notify the other relevant bodies in accordance with the legislation.

4 STATUTORY CONSIDERATIONS

- 4.1 S.59 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 permits the Council to resolve to change the name of an electoral ward in its area.
- 4.2 The electors in that ward must have been consulted and the Council is required to take into account the representations made.
- 4.3 The decision must be taken at a Council meeting specially convened to consider the issue and there must be a vote in favour with a two thirds majority voting on it.
- 4.4 S. 59 (8)(a) of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 provides that a ward name is protected in certain circumstances which includes where an order is made under S.59 of the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009. However that protection only lasts for a period of 5 years from the date that such an order is made. The B&NES (Electoral Changes) Order 2018 was made on the 30 November 2018 under S.59 of Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 and the name of the Twerton ward was protected until the 30 November 2023.

Consequently, the name of the Twerton ward is no longer protected as at the date of this Council decision and the Council can change the name of the ward with a two thirds majority.

5 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCE, PROPERTY, PEOPLE)

5.1 None. The time to organise the consultation and report was covered within existing budgets.

6 RISK MANAGEMENT

6.1 A risk assessment related to the issue and recommendations has been undertaken, in compliance with the Council's decision making risk management guidance. No significant risks were identified in relation to the proposed decision.

7 EQUALITIES

7.1 Not applicable

8 CLIMATE CHANGE

8.1 None

9 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

9.1 The existing name will be retained in the event a two thirds majority to change is not achieved.

10 CONSULTATION

10.1 The residents of the ward were consulted and the results of that consultation are set out in Appendix 1.

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Background papers	
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