

Council

Date: Thursday 21st November 2024
Time: 8.30 pm, or on the rise of the earlier meeting
Venue: Council Chamber - Guildhall, Bath

To: All Members of the Council

Dear Member

You are invited to attend a special meeting of the **Council** on **Thursday 21st November 2024** in the **Council Chamber - Guildhall, Bath**.

The agenda is set out overleaf.

Yours sincerely



Jo Morrison
Democratic Services Manager
for Chief Executive

NOTES:

1. **Inspection of Papers:** Papers are available for inspection as follows:

Council's website: <https://democracy.bathnes.gov.uk/ieDocHome.aspx?bcr=1>

2. **Details of decisions taken at this meeting** can be found in the minutes which will be circulated with the agenda for the next meeting. In the meantime, details can be obtained by contacting as above.

3. **Recording at Meetings:-**

The Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014 now allows filming and recording by anyone attending a meeting. This is not within the Council's control. Some of our meetings are webcast. At the start of the meeting, the Chair will confirm if all or part of the meeting is to be filmed. If you would prefer not to be filmed for the webcast, please make yourself known to the camera operators. We request that those filming/recording meetings avoid filming public seating areas, children, vulnerable people etc; however, the Council cannot guarantee this will happen.

The Council will broadcast the images and sounds live via the internet www.bathnes.gov.uk/webcast. The Council may also use the images/sound recordings on its social media site or share with other organisations, such as broadcasters.

4. **Public Speaking at Meetings**

The Council has a scheme to encourage the public to make their views known at meetings. They may make a statement relevant to what the meeting has power to do. They may also present a petition or a deputation on behalf of a group.

Advance notice is required not less than two full working days before the meeting. This means that for meetings held on Thursdays notice must be received in Democratic Services by 5.00pm the previous Monday.

The Council now has a maximum time limit for this, so any requests to speak cannot be guaranteed if the list is full.

Further details of the scheme can be found at:

<https://democracy.bathnes.gov.uk/ecCatDisplay.aspx?sch=doc&cat=12942>

5. **Emergency Evacuation Procedure**

When the continuous alarm sounds, you must evacuate the building by one of the designated exits and proceed to the named assembly point. The designated exits are signposted. Arrangements are in place for the safe evacuation of disabled people.

6. **Supplementary information for meetings**

Additional information and Protocols and procedures relating to meetings

<https://democracy.bathnes.gov.uk/ecCatDisplay.aspx?sch=doc&cat=13505>

Council - Thursday 21st November 2024

at 8.30 pm (or on the rise of the earlier meeting) in the
Council Chamber - Guildhall, Bath

A G E N D A

1. EMERGENCY EVACUATION PROCEDURE

The Chair will draw attention to the emergency evacuation procedure as set out under Note 5.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

At this point in the meeting declarations of interest are received from Members in any of the agenda items under consideration at the meeting. Members are asked to complete the green interest forms circulated to groups in their pre-meetings (which will be announced at the Council Meeting) to indicate:

(a) The agenda item number in which they have an interest to declare.

(b) The nature of their interest.

(c) Whether their interest is **a disclosable pecuniary interest** or **an other interest**, (as defined in Part 4.4 Appendix B of the Code of Conduct and Rules for Registration of Interests)

Any Member who needs to clarify any matters relating to the declaration of interests is recommended to seek advice from the Council's Monitoring Officer or a member of his staff before the meeting to expedite dealing with the item during the meeting.

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIR OF THE COUNCIL OR FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

These are matters of information for Members of the Council. No decisions will be required arising from the announcements.

5. TO ANNOUNCE ANY URGENT BUSINESS AGREED BY THE CHAIR

If there is any urgent business arising since the formal agenda was published, the Chair will announce this and give reasons why it has been agreed for consideration at this meeting. In making this decision, the Chair will, where practicable, have consulted with the Leaders of the Political Groups. Any documentation on urgent business will be circulated at the meeting, if not made available previously.

6. QUESTIONS, STATEMENTS AND PETITIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

Submissions only on the subject of the agenda item.

The Democratic Services Manager will announce any submissions received. The

Council will be invited to decide what action it wishes to take, if any, on the matters raised in these submissions. As the questions received and the answers given will be circulated in written form there is no requirement for them to be read out at the meeting. The questions and answers will be published with the draft minutes.

7. CHANGE OF ELECTORAL WARD NAME FROM 'TWERTON' TO 'TWERTON & WHITEWAY' (Pages 5 - 12)

Following representations arising out of consultation for the last review of polling districts and polling places, the Council is asked to decide whether this ward should change its name.

8. QUESTIONS, STATEMENTS AND PETITIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

Submissions only on the subject of the agenda item.

The Democratic Services Manager will announce any submissions received. The Council will be invited to decide what action it wishes to take, if any, on the matters raised in these submissions. As the questions received and the answers given will be circulated in written form there is no requirement for them to be read out at the meeting. The questions and answers will be published with the draft minutes.

The Committee Administrator for this meeting is Jo Morrison who can be contacted on 01225 394358.

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.

Contact person	Michael Hewitt, Monitoring Officer tel: 01225 395125
Background papers	
Please contact the report author if you need to access this report in an alternative format	

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Appendix 1

Consultation on the change of ward name from 'Twerton' to 'Twerton & Whiteway'

The Question

"Do you agree with the proposal to change the name of Twerton ward to Twerton & Whiteway ward?"

The response to the consultation

Twerton ward has 4,364 electors.

45 people responded to the consultation. 24 responses are in favour of the change of the ward name, 21 responses are against the change (Chart 1).

Of the 45 respondents, 30 respondents declared themselves resident in Twerton, and 15 not resident. Of the 30 respondents who declared themselves resident in Twerton, 16 are in favour of the change of the ward name, 14 are against the change (Chart 2).

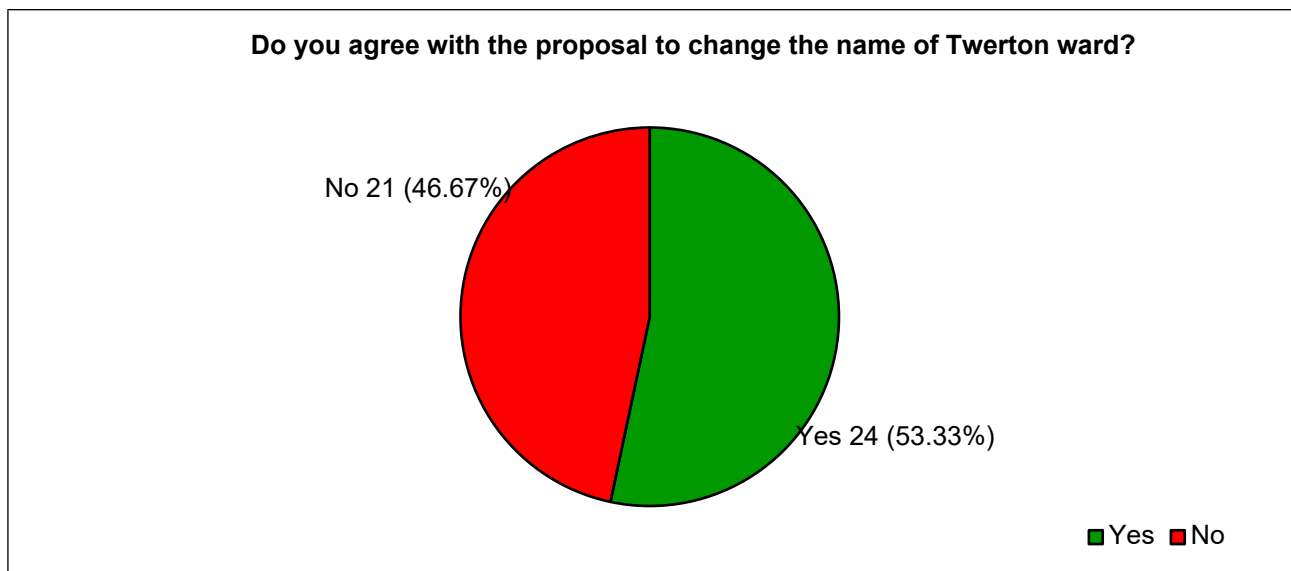


Chart 1

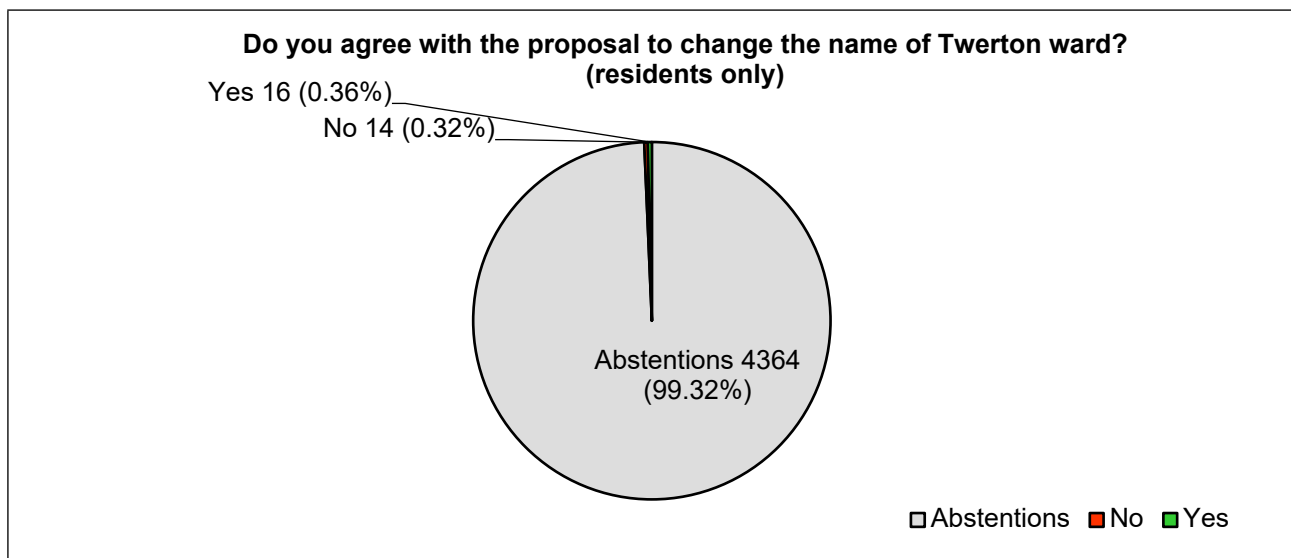


Chart 2

Comments from residents who are in favour of the change

1. "The Twerton ward covers Whiteway so it should be called Twerton and Whiteway."
2. "I live in Whiteway and it's a fair representation to have the correct name for the ward."
3. "The ward covers two very distinct communities and this should be reflected in the name."
4. "The area is a mixed area and the name change reflects the geographical area."
5. "Locally Twerton and Whiteway are known as two distinct neighbourhoods, even though technically they are both within the ward of Twerton. Residents are generally used to identifying as being from one or the other."
6. "Twerton and Whiteway are 2 communities within 1 ward therefore I think the ward name should change to represent both areas from Twerton to Twerton & Whiteway."
7. "Whiteway feels like it's never considered in any improvements or concerns raised; it just feels like we are forgotten. Fed up of the continued 'passing the buck' attitude of our two councillors blaming Curo for failings, then doing nothing to help."
8. "Half the ward is Twerton. The other half is Whiteway. Lots of people in Whiteway don't feel represented."
9. "It is a clear and obvious decision. To include both parts within the ward? It seems the 'poor' in Whiteway are left to the wayside, anything that could be done to make the inhabitants of Whiteway feel heard, and engaged in politics, should be explored."
10. "Whiteway has its own identity. Whilst we are happy to be alongside Twerton, Whiteway should be named too. The identity of a place helps the residents to feel valued and not forgotten/left out /disregarded. It raises the profile of the area. Whiteway is a great place to live and the ward name should honour it. Thank you."
11. "Recognition of the community in the south of the existing ward."
12. "More visibility for the community of Whiteway."

Comments from residents who are against the change

13. "They are two separate local areas with their own history, why change them there is no reason?"
14. "Why change it after all these years?"
15. "Too long, and doesn't include all of Whiteway."
16. "Twerton is the original name of the village and should keep its identity separate from Whiteway."
17. "Twerton or Twerton on Avon as it should be known, was originally a village in its own right. The increase of housing shouldn't change its identity. If anything it should be returned to its original name."
18. "Twerton used to be a lovely place when I was growing up, good community and everyone looked out for each other. To include Whiteway into the ward I feel would bring Twerton down. Whiteway needs their separate ward to sort out their anti-social behaviours."

19. "Years ago (2018) the same question came up about boundaries to be set by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England. Oddly enough the Commission renamed historic Twerton the north part of the Southdown ward. ?? Has this somehow been changed again? Despite written protests in 2018 to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England, historic Twerton was renamed Southdown, and Whiteway was renamed Twerton. Does anyone in charge even look at a map, or know the history of Twerton? Now we are again going to confuse the younger generation by combining the local ward boundary, Twerton, with a double name of Twerton & Whiteway. Historically this is nonsense. A fair map would create two new wards. One with Whiteway in its own ward, and Twerton back along the original historic location near the river and not part of Southdown. But this will never happen."
20. "What impact will this make in light of the fact that when it comes to child poverty Twerton sits within the lowest 10% in the Country. Housing issues, crime, food poverty, drug use and domestic violence are all on the increase yet provisions have been cut. Southside Youth Hub sadly saw the closure of its cafe earlier this year due to 'lack of funding'. The cafe was always well served and busy. It was a meeting point for parents and older residents. Alongside this it was as a great drop in space for professionals to meet their young people away from the school and home environments offering a less informal and safe setting. The Twerton High Street is an embarrassment, empty shops, drug dealing and alcohol use is evident throughout the day and evening, graffiti and blatant ASB adds to the ambience. Whiteway mirrors the above issues however Mount Road shopping area continues to serve its community well despite the ASB issues that staff face on a daily basis. How will merging the two areas benefit the residence? I can guarantee there will not be any additional funding to support the key services in either area. It will be a merger of dept accumulated from central government and local authority cuts, no realistic solution to the social and economical deprivation that many residents face on a day-to-day basis."
21. "There is, currently, absolutely no defined benefit in changing the name. It seems a waste of resources and effort. Perhaps we should down those resources improving the areas rather than nomenclature."
22. "Why change something that is going to make zero difference to people's lives, will no doubt cost money which could be spent on keeping both Twerton and Whiteway tidier. I expect most people will still use the original names. Pretty much like Bath still being part of Avon not BaNES."
23. "Why!? A pointless change, just a waste of effort and money. Many more important issues you should be concentrating on."
24. "Twerton was a separate community before the city expanded and adsorbed the village. The village has a proud history of employment in mills on the river, a ferry across the river and facilities provided by the Carr family, who owned one of the mills. Whiteway is a name invented for the housing development, and should be kept as a separate community in an administrative sense."
25. "Historically, there has always been Whiteway and Twerton and this should remain. As I don't see that by merging them into one ward, that any one area would receive any more funding to keep both areas clean, tidy and maintained, when the council can't even be bothered to tend to Twerton alone and upkeep basic care of the area. Will the

Royal Crescent or the Circus be merged with Julian Road? I didn't think so. I see no positive impact with this move being put forward."

26. "Twerton is Twerton and Whiteway is Whiteway. Let it stay like that. Whiteway has a worse reputation too."
27. "Two different communities. Look at the buildings going up in East Twerton, unlike Whiteway."
28. "Waste of money. It's been like it for years, doesn't need changing."
29. "No point, Twerton is Twerton. This is a waste of time and money."