

<b>Report To:</b>	<b>COUNCIL</b>
<b>Date:</b>	<b>7 JULY 2022</b>
<b>Heading:</b>	<b>REVIEW OF POLLING PLACES</b>
<b>Executive Lead Member:</b>	<b>LEADER OF THE COUNCIL</b>
<b>Ward/s:</b>	<b>ALL</b>
<b>Key Decision:</b>	<b>NO</b>
<b>Subject to Call-In:</b>	<b>NO</b>

## **Purpose of Report**

This report sets out the considerations and recommendations of the Polling Place Review Working Group established to review existing premises following issues with some locations. Subject to approval, the location changes detailed in this report will undergo public consultation before being reported back to Council in September 2022.

## **Recommendation(s)**

1. That Council approves the draft recommendations set out in this report for public consultation.

## **Reasons for Recommendation(s)**

Following the last elections and as a result of issues during the Covid-19 pandemic, the Polling Places Review Working Group have carried out a review of existing polling stations in preparation for the 2023 District Elections. To ensure that all electors have such reasonable facilities for voting as are practicable in the circumstances and that, as far as is reasonable and practicable, polling places are accessible to disabled electors.

## **Alternative Options Considered**

As detailed in the report and considered by the Polling Places Review Working Group.

## Detailed Information

The Polling Places Review Working Group have met on four occasions to conduct an interim review and report its final recommendations to Council, in line with the timetable and remit as set out and approved by the Council.

Following ongoing work being undertaken by the Elections Team in contacting, reviewing and assessing viable locations, Members of the working group have discussed possible alternative venues, taking into consideration;

- Size
- Accessibility
- Location
- Parking
- Availability

Members of the cross party working group have considered the most suitable locations based on the above factors for recommendation to Council. Table 1 details the changes as agreed by the working group.

**Table 1. Polling Station / Boundary Changes**

<b>ABBEY HILL:- ABH1 Proposed new polling place</b>					
<b>Existing Polling District</b>	<b>Existing Polling Place</b>	<b>Current Electorate / Proposed Electorate</b>	<b>Proposed Change</b>	<b>County Division</b>	<b>Access Issues</b>
ABH1	Abbey Hill Primary School	2,312	Polling Place: The Summit Centre	Kirkby North	No access issues
<b>Comments:</b>					
In line with the Council's commitment to reduce the number of schools used as polling places and minimise disruption to education it is proposed that the temporary move, due to Covid in 2021, become permanent.					
The proposed polling place is considered to provide reasonable and convenient facilities for electors in this area					
<b>Ashfields: ASH1 Proposed Boundary Change (Appendix A &amp; B)</b>					
ASH1	The Changing Rooms off Bluebell Wood Way	2,057 / 1,682	Proposed boundary change	Ashfield	No access issues
<b>Comments:</b>					
The following streets be added in to ASH1:-					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Blueberry Croft,</li> </ul>					

- Field View,
- Oakleaf Crescent,
- Primrose Way,
- Sunnycroft

The following existing streets be moved into new polling district ASH3:-

- Garth Ave,
- Highland Drive,
- Hillsborough Ave,
- Hillsborough Way,
- Kirkby Road (38-206),
- Longwood Drive,
- Oakfield Ave,
- Off The Avenue,
- Pemberley Chase,
- Pendean Way,
- Rosing Court,
- Sutton Road,
- (207-215) The Avenue,
- Walton Drive

Some electors will be brought in from ASH2 to make it a shorter distance to travel to cast their vote, otherwise they would be voting at The Snipe.

To lessen the burden on The Changing Rooms some streets to be moved into a newly created polling district called ASH3.

The proposed polling place for this polling district is considered to provide reasonable and convenient facilities for the reduced number of electors in this area.

#### Ashfields: ASH2 Proposed Boundary Change (Appendix C)

Existing Polling District	Existing Polling Place	Current Electorate / Proposed Electorate	Proposed Change	County Division	Access Issues
ASH2	The Snipe	904 / 760	Polling Place: The Changing Rooms off Bluebell Woods Way	Ashfield	No access issues

Comments:

The proposed boundary change provides a shorter distance for electors to travel in order to cast their votes. The following streets would vote at the Changing Rooms should the proposals be approved:

- Blueberry Croft,
- Field View,
- Oakleaf Crescent,
- Primrose Way,

- Sunnycroft

The proposed polling place for this polling district is considered to provide reasonable and convenient facilities for electors in this area.

#### Ashfields: ASH3 Proposed new Polling District (Appendix D)

Existing Polling District	Existing Polling Place	Current Electorate / Proposed Electorate	Proposed Change	County Division	Access Issues
Proposed new Polling District ASH3	The Changing Rooms off Bluebell Wood Way	520	Polling Place: Heathcote Court	Ashfield	No access issues

Comments:

Due to the large electorate in the existing polling district of ASH1 it is proposed that an additional polling district ASH3 be created and the electors therein will vote at Heathcote Court. Additionally, this will ease the burden on the Changing Rooms as this is a relatively small building.

ASH3 will include the following streets;

- Garth Ave,
- Highland Drive,
- Hillsborough Ave,
- Hillsborough Way,
- Kirkby Road (38-206),
- Longwood Drive,
- Oakfield Ave,
- Off The Avenue,
- Pemberley Chase,
- Pendean Way,
- Rosing Court,
- Sutton Road,
- (207-215) The Avenue,
- Walton Drive

The proposed polling place for this polling district is considered to provide reasonable and convenient facilities for electors in this area.

#### Hucknall North: HNO2 Proposed New Polling Place

Existing Polling District	Existing Polling Place	Current Electorate / Proposed Electorate	Proposed Change	County Division	Access Issues
HNO2	Holy Cross/Leen	1,954	The Interchange Centre	Hucknall North	No access issues

	Mills Primary Schools				
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Comments:

In line with the Council's commitment to reduce the number of schools used as polling places and minimise disruption to education it is proposed that the temporary move, due to Covid in 2021, become permanent.

The proposed polling place for these polling districts is considered to provide reasonable and convenient facilities for electors in this area.

**Hucknall West: HWE3 Proposed New Polling Place and Boundary Change (Appendix E & F)**

Existing Polling District	Existing Polling Place	Current Electorate / Proposed Electorate	Proposed Change	County Division	Access Issues
HWE3	Edgewood Primary School	2,389 / 2,231	Boundary Change  Polling Station: St Peters and Pauls Church Hall	Hucknall West	No access issues

Comments:

In line with the Council's commitment to reduce the number of schools used as polling places and minimise disruption to education it is proposed that electors use St Peters and Pauls. This does fall just outside of the polling district, however, it offers good transport links and access.

The following streets to be included in the boundary for HWE4:

- Stainsborough Road
- Badger Close
- Rockley Close
- Bluebell Close

The proposed polling place for these polling districts is considered to provide reasonable and convenient facilities for electors in this area.

**Hucknall West: HWE4 Polling District Boundary Change (Appendix G)**

Existing Polling District	Existing Polling Place	Current Electorate / Proposed Electorate	Proposed Change	County Division	Access Issues
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HWE4	Edgewood Primary School	1,717 / 1,885	Beauvale Court	Hucknall West	No access issues
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**Comments:**

The rationalisation of the polling districts will assist electors in having better access to a polling place. The following streets to be included in the boundary for HWE4:

- Stainsborough Road
- Badger Close
- Rockley Close
- Bluebell Close

The proposed polling place for these polling districts is considered to provide reasonable and convenient facilities for electors in this area.

**Kingsway: KWy2 Proposed New Polling Place**

Existing Polling District	Existing Polling Place	Current Electorate / Proposed Electorate	Proposed Change	County Division	Access Issues
KWy2	St Thomas's Church Hall	667	Forest Street Baptist Schoolroom	Kirkby North	No access issues

**Comments:**

Forest Street Baptist Schoolroom is already used as a polling place and will become a double station

The proposed polling place for this polling districts is considered to provide reasonable and convenient facilities for electors in this area.

**Kingsway: KWy4 Proposed New Polling Place**

Existing Polling District	Existing Polling Place	Current Electorate / Proposed Electorate	Proposed Change	County Division	Access Issues
KWy4	St Thomas's Church Hall	546	Forest Street Baptist Schoolroom	Kirkby South	No access issues

**Comments:**

Forest Street Baptist Schoolroom is already used as a polling place and will become a double station

The proposed polling place for these polling districts is considered to provide reasonable and convenient facilities for electors in this area.

**Kirkby Cross and Portland: KXP4: Proposed New Polling Place**

Existing Polling District	Existing Polling Place	Current Electorate / Proposed Electorate	Proposed Change	County Division	Access Issues
KXP4	Kingsway Cemetery Chapel	763	The Kingsway Pub	Kirkby south	No access issues

**Comments:**

The Kingsway public house is again available for use as a polling place following the relaxing of regulations in relation to Covid-19.

The proposed polling place for these polling districts is considered to provide reasonable and convenient facilities for electors in this area.

**Selston: SEL2 Proposed Boundary Change (Appendix H & I)**

Existing Polling District	Existing Polling Place	Current Electorate / Proposed Electorate	Proposed Change	County Division	Access Issues
SEL2	Selston Parish Hall	1,269 / 1,382	The following street and single property to be added into SEL2: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Commonsidge</li> <li>• 1A Pines Close</li> </ul>	Selston	No access issues

**Comments:**

Some electors will be brought in from SEL4 to make it a shorter distance to travel to cast their vote, otherwise they would be voting at it's newly proposed venue of The Railway Inn.

The rationalisation of the polling districts will assist electors in having better access to a polling place.

The proposed polling place for these polling districts is considered to provide reasonable and convenient facilities for electors in this area.

**Selston: SEL4 Proposed new Polling Place and Boundary Change (Appendix J)**

Existing Polling District	Existing Polling Place	Current Electorate / Proposed Electorate	Proposed Change	County Division	Access Issues
SEL4	Horse and Jockey Public House	292 / 179	The following street and single property to be removed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Commonsidge</li> </ul>	Selston	No access issues

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1A Pines Close</li> </ul>		
			New Polling Place Change: Railway Inn		

**Comments:**

The Horse and Jockey no longer meets the access requirements which we expect to be detailed in the 2022 Elections Act Regulations later in the year.

The Railway Inn has previously been used as a polling place and meets all access needs. Some electors to be moved over into SEL2 to make it a shorter distance for them to travel to cast their vote.

The proposed polling place for these polling districts is considered to provide reasonable and convenient facilities for electors in this area.

**Underwood: UND2: Proposed New Polling Place**

Existing Polling District	Existing Polling Place	Current Electorate / Proposed Electorate	Proposed Change	County Division	Access Issues
UND2	Mobile Unit – Woodnook Recreation Ground	238	The Church of Christ	Selston	No access issues

**Comments:**

Due to the closure of the White Lion a mobile polling station was used in the 2021 polls. Complaints were received from electors residing close to the site. The Church of Christ, whilst sitting just outside of the polling district, offers good facilities with good transport links. This polling place will become a double station.

The proposed polling place for these polling districts is considered to provide reasonable and convenient facilities for electors in this area.

**Implications**

**Corporate Plan:**

Enable thriving, prosperous and self-sufficient communities where people shape their own futures. Ensure effective community leadership, through good governance, transparency, accountability and appropriate behaviours.



## Legal:

A full review of polling places and polling districts will take place in 2023 in line with legislative requirements. This interim review has been carried out to deal with urgent polling place issues identified in readiness for the District Elections in 2023. **(RLD 29/06/2022)**

## Finance:

Budget Area	Implication
General Fund – Revenue Budget	Costs arising from the review can be met from existing budgets
General Fund – Capital Programme	None
Housing Revenue Account – Revenue Budget	None
Housing Revenue Account – Capital Programme	None

## Risk:

Risk	Mitigation
Elector access to polling places and confusion over venues following Covid-19 Pandemic where some interim arrangements were necessary.	Effective communications and public consultation around proposed changes.

## Human Resources:

None

## Environmental/Sustainability

*None*

## Equalities:

The purpose of the review is to ensure that all electors have such reasonable facilities for voting as are practicable in the circumstances and that, as far as is reasonable and practicable, polling places are accessible to disabled electors.

## Other Implications:

*None*

**Reason(s) for Urgency**

*None*

**Reason(s) for Exemption**

*None*

**Report Author and Contact Officer**

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