

Report To:	COUNCIL
Date:	25 SEPTEMBER 2023
Heading:	STATUTORY REVIEW OF POLLING PLACES AND POLLING DISTRICTS
Executive Lead Member:	LEADER OF THE COUNCIL
Ward/s:	ALL WARDS
Key Decision:	NO
Subject to Call-In:	NO

Purpose of Report

This report seeks Council approval to commence public consultation on the amendments to polling places and polling districts as set out in the table below. The consultation period will begin on 2 October 2023 and conclude on 31 October 2023.

Recommendation(s)

That Council:

- a) note the information contained in the report;
- b) approves a public consultation exercise to commence on 2 October 2023 and conclude on 31 October 2023.

Reasons for Recommendation(s)

Under the Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013 council's must complete a review of polling districts and polling places at least once every 5 years in a compulsory review period, the last full review was undertaken in 2018. The Polling Places and Polling District Review Working Group have therefore undertaken preparatory work to support the review.

Alternative Options Considered

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

Detailed Information

The Polling Places Review Working Group have met on three occasions to discuss the polling places and polling districts within Ashfield.

Members of the working group discussed possible alternative polling places and polling district boundaries. As a result of these discussions work has been undertaken by the Elections Team in contacting, reviewing and visiting viable locations taking into consideration;

- Size
- Accessibility
- Location
- Parking
- Availability

Based upon the feedback from these visits Members of the cross party working group have considered the most suitable locations based on the above factors for recommendation to Council. Additionally, some polling district boundaries have been adjusted to better support electors in accessing polling places.

Table 1. Polling Places/Boundary Changes

CARSIC: CAR2 Proposed new polling place				
Existing Polling District	Existing Polling Place	Proposed Change	County Division	Access Issues
CAR2	Aspley Court	St Marys Court	Sutton West	No access issues
Comments: St Marys Court is an existing polling place for electors in CAR1. The creation of a double station at St Marys Court and the subsequent removal of Aspley Court as a polling place will help to support residents at Aspley Court.				

KIRKBY CROSS & PORTLAND: KXP2, KXP3 & KXP4 Polling place and polling district boundary changes

Existing Polling District	Existing Polling Place	Proposed Change	County Division	Access Issues
KXP1	St Wilfrids Church Hall	No change	Kirkby South	No access issues
KXP2	The Hill Methodist Church	Take in additional properties from KXP3	Kirkby South	No access issues
KXP3	Urban Social Club	Merge into KXP2 New polling place: The Hill Methodist Church	Kirkby South	N/A
KXP4	Kingsway Public House	Becomes KXP3	Kirkby South	No access issues

Comments:

The rationalisation of the polling districts will assist electors in having better access to a polling place. All properties on the following streets will be transferred from KXP3 to KXP2:

- Alfred Street
- Austen Grove
- Bellamy Drives
- Bennet Drive
- Bingley Crescent
- Cobden Street
- Erewash Street
- Festus Street
- Greenholme Close
- Hodgkinson Road
- King Street
- Lime Street
- Lindleys Court, Lindleys Lane
- Lindleys Lane
- Meryton Grove
- Queen Street
- Ronchin Gardens
- Spring Close
- Station Street
- Urban Road

Subsequently the polling district previously known as KXP4 will become KXP3.

Please see appendices A, B & C

HUCKNALL CENTRAL: HCE2 Polling place and polling district boundary changes

Existing Polling District	Existing Polling Place	Proposed Change	County Division	Access Issues
HCE1	The John Godber Centre	Alteration of the polling district boundary	Hucknall South	N/A
HCE2	Watnall Road Community Centre	Holy Cross Catholic Church complex Additional properties placed in HCE2 from HCE1	Hucknall South	No access issues
HCE3	Royal British Legion	Additional properties placed in polling district HCE3 from HCE2	Hucknall South	N/A

Comments:

Watnall Road Community Centre is no longer suitable as a polling place. Holy Cross Catholic Church complex offers reasonable facilities to the rear of the church for electors and is within the polling district.

Additionally, the rationalisation of the polling districts across HCE1, HCE2 and HCE3 will assist electors in having better access to a polling place.

The following streets will be transferred from HCE1 to HCE2 and those electors will vote at Holy Cross Catholic Church – Community Room:

- Sandy Lane, Hucknall (even numbered properties 64a-118)
- Sandy Lane, Hucknall (odd numbered properties 49-79)
- Windmill Avenue, Hucknall (all properties)
- Windmill Grove, Hucknall (all properties)
- William Street, Hucknall (all properties)

The following streets will be transferred from HCE2 to HCE3 and those electors will vote at The Royal British Legion:

- Croft Avenue, Hucknall (odd numbered properties)
- Truman Drive, Hucknall (all excl Autumn Court)
- Orchard Street, Hucknall (all properties)

Please see appendices D, E & F

HUCKNALL NORTH: HNO2 & HNO4 Polling place and polling district boundary changes

Existing Polling District	Existing Polling Place	Proposed Change	County Division	Access Issues
HNO1	George Street Working Mens Club	No change	Hucknall North	No access issues
HNO2	Interchange (Young People Centre)	Removal of some properties to HNO4	Hucknall North	No access issues
HNO3	Interchange (Young People Centre)	No change	Hucknall North	No access issues
HNO4	Leen Valley Golf Club	Jamie Brough Pavilion Properties to be included in HNO4 from HNO2	Hucknall North	No access issues

Comments:

The transport links to Leen Valley Golf Club are inadequate. The Jamie Brough Pavilion offers reasonable facilities for electors, has good transport links and is within the polling district.

Additionally, the rationalisation of the polling districts across HNO2 and HNO4 will assist electors in having better access to a polling place.

The following streets will be transferred from HNO2 to HNO4 and those electors will vote at Jamie Brough Pavilion:

- Papplewick Lane, Hucknall (odd numbered properties)
- Rowan Court, Hucknall (all properties)
- Balmoral Grove, Hucknall (all properties)
- Buckingham Avenue, Hucknall (all properties)

Please see appendices G & H

HUCKNALL SOUTH: HSO4 & HSO5 Polling place and polling district boundary changes

Existing Polling District	Existing Polling Place	Proposed Change	County Division	Access Issues
HSO1	The Grove	No change		No access issues
HSO2	St Johns Church Community Complex	No change		No access issues
HSO3	Bestwood Community Centre	No change		No access issues
HSO4	Broomhill Inn	Merge with HSO5 and change polling place to create a double polling station at St Johns Church Community Complex		No access issues
HSO5	The Grove	Merge with HSO4 and change polling place to create a double station at St Johns Church Community Complex		No access issues

Comments:

The rationalisation of the polling districts across HSO4 and HSO5 will see the two polling districts merge and will assist electors in having better access to a more suitable polling place at St Johns Church Community Complex.

The following streets will be merged from HSO5 to HSO4 and become HSO4::

- Dallman Close (all properties)
- Derwent Drive (all properties)
- Farleys Lane (all properties)
- Hazel Meadows (all properties)
- Nursery Close (all properties)
- Park Drive (all properties)
- Torkard Court (all properties)

Please see appendix I

HUCKNALL WEST: HWE2 Proposed new polling place

Existing Polling District	Existing Polling Place	Proposed Change	County Division	Access Issues
HWE1	West Hucknall Baptist Church	Transfer properties from HWE1 into HWE2		
HWE2	West Hucknall Baptist Church	Additional properties from HWE1 into HWE2 The Engine Rooms	Hucknall West	No access issues

Comments:

The Engine Rooms, sited on the Rolls Royce Site, offers better access links for electors living in the polling district HWE2.

The rationalisation of the polling district boundaries will assist electors in having better access to a polling place. The following streets will be transferred from HWE1 into HWE2:

Watnall Road, Hucknall (even numbered properties)
Pilot Drive, Hucknall (all properties)
Kingsway Road, Hucknall (all properties)
Harrier Grove, Hucknall (all properties)
Kingsway Gardens, Hucknall (all properties)
Westville Drive, Hucknall (all properties)
Merlin Drive, Hucknall (all properties)
Westland Avenue, Hucknall (all properties)
Royce Avenue, Hucknall (all properties)
Wings Drive, Hucknall (all properties)
Avon Avenue, Hucknall (all properties)
Neve Close, Hucknall (all properties)
Trent Drive, Hucknall (all properties)
Conway Road, Hucknall (all properties)
Spey Close, Hucknall (all properties)
Watnall Lodge, Watnall Road, Hucknall (all properties)
Olympus Court, Hucknall (all properties)
Stubbing Wood Farm, Hucknall (all properties)

Please see appendices J & K

HUTHWAITE & BRIERLEY: HBR2 Proposed new polling place and polling district boundary change

Existing Polling District	Existing Polling Place	Proposed Change	County Division	Access Issues
HBR1	Mansfield Hosiery Mills Sports & Social Club	Additional properties transferred from HBR2	Sutton West	No access issues
HBR2	Mill House Community Centre	Properties transferred from HBR2 to HBR1 Brierley Forest Park – Café	Sutton West	No access issues
HBR3	The All Saints Centre	N/A	Sutton West	No access issues

Comments:

Mill House Community Centre is no longer suitable as a polling place. Brierley Forest Park Café offers reasonable facilities for electors and is within the polling district.

The rationalisation of the polling districts will assist electors in having better access to a polling place. The following streets will be transferred from HBR2 to HBR1 and will cast their vote at Mansfield Hosiery Mills Sports & Social Club:

- Sutton Road, Huthwaite (even numbered properties 6-120)
- Elmhurst Drive, Huthwaite (all properties)
- Beech Avenue, Huthwaite (all properties)
- Crossley Avenue, Huthwaite (all properties)
- Lime Avenue, Huthwaite (all properties)
- Corner Croft, Huthwaite (all properties)
- Mill Close, Huthwaite (all properties)

Please see appendices L, M & N

SKEGBY: SKG3 Proposed new polling place

Existing Polling District	Existing Polling Place	Proposed Change	County Division	Access Issues
SKG3	Harwood Court	The Bridge Baptist Church Complex	Sutton North	No access issues

Comments:

Harwood Court is no longer a suitable venue for a polling place. The Bridge Baptist Church complex, whilst just outside of the polling district, offers reasonable facilities and good transport links for electors.

STANTON HILL & TEVERSAL: SHL2 Proposed new polling place

Existing Polling District	Existing Polling Place	Proposed Change	County Division	Access Issues
SHL2	Brand Court	All Saints Church Hall	Sutton North	No access issues

Comments:

The facilities at Brand Court are no longer considered adequate for electors, those offered at All Saints Church Hall meet all necessary requirements.

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:

Every local authority is required to start and complete a review of its polling districts and polling places at least once every five years. The compulsory review period will commence on 1 October 2023.

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
Failure to comply with legislative requirements to review its polling districts and polling places every 5 years. Furthermore, failure to provide reasonable facilities for electors.	Review of polling places and polling districts to ensure that thorough consideration has been given to support accessibility for all electors and to comply with legislative requirements.

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

Background Papers

None.

Report Author and Contact Officer

Rachel Newton
ELECTORAL SERVICES ASSISTANT
rachel.newton@ashfield.gov.uk
01623 457008

Sponsoring Executive Director

Ruth Dennis
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR - GOVERNANCE
ruth.dennis@ashfield.gov.uk
01623 457009