

POLLING PLACES AND POLLING DISTRICTS REVIEW WORKING GROUP

**Meeting held in Committee Room, Council Offices, Urban Road,
Kirkby-in-Ashfield,**

on Monday, 7th August 2023 at 2.00 p.m.

Present: Councillor Jason Zadrozny in the Chair;
Councillors Samantha Deakin, Thomas Hollis, Rachel Madden, Andrew Meakin, Philip Rostance and Helen-Ann Smith

Apologies for Absence: None

Officers Present: Carla Benedetti, Ruth Dennis, Michael Joy and Rachel Newton

PPD.1 Declarations of Interest by Members and Officers

No declarations of interest were made.

PPD.2 Scope

The Assistant Director – Democracy requested that the scope of the review be agreed in order that preparatory work could commence ahead of the formal review and subsequent consultation process beginning in October 2023.

He advised members that it would be good practice to ensure that the preliminary work was completed in a timely manner as a general election could be called at short notice.

Further it was agreed that forecast information relating to the current and projected population be provided at the next meeting to assist members in assessing the size of polling districts and the number of polling places necessary to accommodate electors. The initial meetings would provide a starting point from which officers could begin researching alternative polling places where necessary and gather further information to bring back to the group.

PPD.3 Polling Places

The Group worked through the list of polling places and provided comments and suggestions to be investigated during the course of the review process as detailed below:

ABBHEY HILL

Councillor Meakin had received representation from his constituents that the Summit Centre is a long way to travel. Abbey Hill School was previously used, however, in keeping with the council's commitment to limit the number of schools the polling place was moved.

RECOMMEND: that liaison with school take place the findings of which will be reported back to the group.

ANNESLEY & KIRKBY WOODHOUSE

No changes proposed.

ASHFIELDS WARD

No changes proposed.

CARSIC

Members would like to explore the possibility of using one station, namely St Marys Court and therefore removing Aspley Court as a polling place.

RECOMMEND: the use of Aspley Court be discontinued in favour of St Marys Court becoming a double station.

HUCKNALL CENTRAL

The use of Watnall Road community centre to be discontinued.

RECOMMEND: alternative venues to be identified and presented to the group.

HUCKNALL NORTH

Members felt that Leen Valley Golf Club was too far for electors to travel and has inadequate transport links.

RECOMMEND: alternative venues be identified and presented to the group

HUCKNALL SOUTH

Members would to explore the possibility of using Forge Mill Café as this would provide better access for electors.

RECOMMEND: that the possibility of moving to the Forge Mill Café be explored and the findings reported back to the group.

HUCKNALL WEST

Councillor Rostance requested that a venue closer to the electors living in and around the old Rolls Royce site be identified and polling district boundaries for that area be revisited.

RECOMMEND: that a site visit be made to the old Rolls Royce site and the findings reported back to the group. Additionally, members to consider the polling district boundaries for this area.

HUTHWAITE & BRIERLEY

Due to the projected growth through new developments in this area, it is likely that both the polling district boundaries and the polling places in this ward require reorganisation as part of this review.

RECOMMEND: that alternative options for polling places be identified for members to consider and further work be undertaken by the group to rationalise polling district boundaries.

GREENWOOD & SUMMIT

Greenwood school currently require a CPO to be stationed within the polling place throughout polling day to ensure that safeguarding requirements can be met.

RECOMMEND: that contact be made with the head teacher with an offer from the authority to pay for a lockable door to remove the need for a permanent member of staff to be stationed on site throughout the day.

JACKSDALE

No changes proposed.

KINGSWAY

No changes proposed.

KIRKBY CROSS & PORTLAND

Members would like to consider reducing the number of polling stations in this polling district and redirecting those electors to existing stations.

RECOMMEND: that the Urban Social Club be removed as a polling place with the redirection of the affected electors to the Kingsway Public House and The Hill Methodist Church.

LARWOOD

No changes proposed.

LEAMINGTON

No changes proposed

SELSTON

No changes proposed.

SKEGBY

Members requested that alternative polling places for Harwood Community Centre are sought and reported back to the next meeting.

RECOMMEND: identify alternative venues and discontinue the use of Harwood Court Community Centre.

SUTTON CENTRAL & NEW CROSS

No changes proposed.

ST MARY'S

No changes proposed.

STANTON HILL & TEVERSAL

Representations were received by the elections team in the May 2023 polls in relation to safeguarding concerns for some of the residents at Brand Court.

RECOMMEND: that the possibility of using All Saints Church Hall be explored.

SUTTON JUNCTION & HARLOW WOOD

No changes proposed.

THE DALES

No changes proposed.

UNDERWOOD

No changes proposed.

PPD.4 Polling Districts

The Chairman requested that the group take the opportunity to examine polling district boundaries in greater detail to enable them to eliminate any small anomalies, in addition to ensuring that the designated polling places are suitably positioned and provide good facilities for electors. It was agreed that updated maps be provided for each polling district and for them to be discussed individually with any changes marked up during the meeting in readiness for them being passed to GIS.

PPD5. Meeting Schedule

At the agreement of all present the Chairman set the next two meetings as follows:

- 21 August 2023 at 2.00 p.m.
- 11 September 2023 at 2.00 p.m.

As Councillor Rostance is unable to attend the meeting being held on 21 August, it was further agreed that discussions concerning polling places and polling districts in Hucknall would be deferred until the meeting scheduled to take place on 11 September.

The meeting closed at 3:30 p.m.

Chairman.