



Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council

Forward timetable of consultation and decision making

Council 28 November 2023

Wards affected: all wards

Polling District and Polling Place Review 2023

Report of the Chief Executive

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 To present the final recommendations in respect of the Polling District and Polling Place for 2023.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 The recommendations contained in paragraphs 3.6.1 to 3.6.18 be approved for the publication of the revised register of electors on 1 December 2023.

3. Background to the report

- 3.1 Under the Representation of the People Act 1983 (RPA 1983), Council has a duty to divide its local authority area into polling districts and to designate a polling place for each district. This is for the purposes of voting at UK Parliamentary elections, but the same scheme is used for local elections for consistency of voter experience and administration.
- 3.2 A polling district and polling place review may be undertaken at any time, but the Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013 introduced a duty on all local authorities to review arrangements at least once every five years. Under Section 18(c) of the RPA 1983, the next compulsory review must be undertaken within a 16-month window, between 2 October 2023 and 31 January 2025.
- 3.3 The timetable for the review is not prescribed, but must be conducted to ensure key legislative actions are completed, as prescribed by Schedule A1 of the RPA 1983, including the publication of a notice of review, the publication

of comments and recommendations from the (Acting) Returning Officer for each constituency that falls within the local authority area, and public consultation of electors in that area so that they may make their own representations.

- 3.3 The legislative requirements, guidelines and considerations for the outcomes of the review are set out in paragraphs 2.1 to 2.3 of Appendix A.
- 3.4 Pre-consultation analysis was undertaken to draw up initial comments and recommendations from the (Acting) Returning Officers of the two constituencies in the borough-area: Hinckley & Bosworth (formerly Bosworth), and Mid-Leicestershire (formerly Charnwood). A summary of this analysis is set out in paragraphs 3.1 to 3.2 of Appendix A.
- 3.5 Public consultation was undertaken in a variety of ways. These methods are outlined in paragraphs 4.1 to 4.5 of Appendix A and the responses recorded in full in Appendix B. For appendix C (maps) please refer to the agenda on the website or they are available on request.

3.6 Summary of (Acting) Returning Officer recommendations

The following comments and recommendations were drawn up following completion of the consultation and consideration of the responses received. See sections 6 and 7 of Appendix A for a detailed consideration of each polling district and polling place.

- 3.6.1 All descriptions of polling places are to be redesignated to better reflect the legal definition of a polling place as a specific location to which a voter can travel, such as a building or a road.
- 3.6.2 The delegated authority of the Chief Executive to agree 'polling station changes' at short notice in consultation with group leaders and relevant ward member(s) (Section 2, paragraph 3.2 of the Constitution), is amended to read 'polling place changes' to accurately reflect the powers of the Council to appoint polling places, not stations, and the intention of the delegation to make emergency changes to the scheme at short notice.
- 3.6.3 **Ambien Ward**
No changes to the polling district boundaries or location of the polling places since the last poll in 2023.
- 3.6.4 **Barlestone Nailstone & Osbaston Ward**
No changes to the polling district boundaries or location of the polling places since the last poll in 2023.
- 3.6.5 **Barwell Ward**
No changes to the polling district boundaries or location of the polling places since the last poll in 2023.

3.6.6 Burbage Sketchley & Stretton Ward

No changes to the polling district boundaries or location of the polling places since the last poll in 2023, noting that Electoral Services will review the provision of accessibility mitigations at Sketchley Grange Hotel.

3.6.7 Burbage St Catherines & Lash Hill Ward

No changes to the polling district boundaries or location of the polling places since the last poll in 2023.

3.6.8 Cadeby Carlton & Market Bosworth with Shackerstone Ward

No changes to the polling district boundaries or location of the polling places since the last poll in 2023, noting that Electoral Services will review the provision of accessibility mitigations at Cadeby Church Rooms before and after the next scheduled poll.

3.6.9 Earl Shilton Ward

No changes to the polling district boundaries.

No change to the location of the polling places for FAA, FAB and FAC since the last poll in 2023.

The polling place for FAD to be designated as Belle Vue Road and Heath Lane Academy, Earl Shilton as a temporary measure with the intention to pursue the use of Newlands Community Primary School. This designation provides flexibility of portacabin arrangements should a suitable agreement and safeguarding arrangements not be reached in time for the next poll.

3.6.10 Groby Ward

No changes to the polling district boundaries or location of the polling places since the last poll in 2023.

3.6.11 Hinckley Castle Ward

The boundaries of DAA and DAB are merged to simplify boundaries that are no longer serving an electoral purpose and create a new polling district DAA (Appendix C, Map 1).

The boundaries of DAC and DAD are merged to create a new polling district DAB (Appendix C, Map 2) for the same reasons as above.

The polling place for new polling district DAA is designated as Mount Road Baptist Church, Mount Road, Hinckley.

The polling place for new polling district DAB is designated as Trinity Centre, Marchant Road, Hinckley.

3.6.12 Hinckley Clarendon Ward

No change to the boundaries of polling districts EAA and EAD.

The boundary of EAB is extended westwards to better reflect the shape of the established neighbourhood (Appendix C, Map 3).

The boundary of EAC is split to make the Hollycroft Grange/Normandy Way development a separate new polling district, EAE, allowing a polling place to be designated flexibly as the development progresses (Appendix C, Map 4 and 5).

No change to the location of the polling places for EAA, EAB, EAC and EAD.

The polling place for EAE to be temporarily designated as Hope Community Church, Deveron Way, Hinckley with the intention to review this as the settlement develops south and the school is completed.

3.6.13 Hinckley De Montfort Ward

No change to the boundary of polling district ABB.

The boundaries of polling districts ABA and ABC are redrawn to create a third, new polling district ABD (Appendix C, Maps 6, 7 and 8) reducing the distance to travel for voters and alleviate the burden on busy existing polling stations.

No changes to the location of the polling places for ABA and ABC.

The polling place for ABB is changed to Hinckley Methodist Church, Albert Road, Hinckley, to locate the polling place within the polling district boundary and to alleviate the burden on the Mary Forryan Centre.

The polling place for new polling district ABD is designated as Ashby Road Sports Club, Ashby Road, Hinckley.

3.6.14 Hinckley Trinity Ward

The boundaries of ACA and ACB are merged to simplify boundaries that are no longer serving an electoral purpose and create a new polling district ACA (Appendix C, Map 9).

The boundary of polling district ACC is split to create two smaller polling districts, ACB and ACC (Appendix C, Maps 10 and 11) to reduce the travel required for voters at the far north and south of the existing boundary and create more manageable electorates.

The polling place for new polling district ACA is designated as St Francis Community Centre, Tudor Road, Hinckley.

The polling place for new polling district ACB is designed as Hope Community Church, Deveron Way, Hinckley.

The polling place for new polling district ACC is designated as Gwendoline Community House, Gwendoline Avenue, Hinckley.

3.6.15 Markfield Stanton & Field Head Ward

No changes to the polling district boundaries or location of the polling place since the last poll in 2023.

3.6.16 Newbold Verdon with Desford & Peckleton Ward

No changes to the polling district boundaries or location of the polling place since the last poll in 2023.

3.6.17 Ratby Bagworth & Thornton Ward

No changes to the polling district boundaries or location of the polling place since the last poll in 2023.

3.6.18 Twycross & Witherley with Sheepy Ward

No changes to the polling district boundaries or location of the polling place since the last poll in 2023.

4. Exemptions in accordance with the Access to Information procedure rules

4.1 To be taken in public session.

5. Financial implications [DW]

5.1 Minimal additional costs are expected as a result of the review, arising solely from potential changes to polling station fees. These will be met from existing resources.

6. Legal implications [MR]

6.1 Set out in the report.

7. Corporate Plan implications

7.1 The polling district and polling place review recognises the importance of local communities in providing reasonable and appropriate facilities for voting across the borough area. The review gives residents from all backgrounds the opportunity to engage, ensuring that that implemented scheme recognises the diversity of the electorate and supports vulnerable electors.

8. Consultation

8.1 Informal consultation was undertaken with polling station staff and polling place venues between May and September 2023 to assist pre-consultation analysis.

8.2 Formal consultation on (Acting) Returning Officer comments and recommendations took place between 9 October and 6 November 2023 as outlined in paragraphs 4.1 to 4.5 of Appendix A.

9. Risk implications

- 9.1 It is the council's policy to proactively identify and manage significant risks which may prevent delivery of business objectives.
- 9.2 It is not possible to eliminate or manage all risks all of the time and risks will remain which have not been identified. However, it is the officer's opinion based on the information available, that the significant risks associated with this decision / project have been identified, assessed and that controls are in place to manage them effectively.
- 9.3 The following significant risks associated with this report were identified from this assessment:

Management of significant (Net Red) risks

Risk description	Mitigating actions	Owner
Failure to meet reasonable requirements of electors or take sufficient account of accessibility for disabled electors in the community	Maximise public awareness of the consultation and give due consideration to all responses given	(Acting) Returning Officer
Potential for appeal to the Electoral Commission	Ensure that decision-making processes are clearly recorded and decisions are supported by clear reasoning	Electoral Services Manager

10. Knowing your community – equality and rural implications

- 10.1 The review invites all communities to input into the polling arrangements that affect them, ensuring that they are fit for purpose and reflective of their local identity and geography.
- 10.2 Consideration of voters with disabilities is a legislative component of the review and will therefore be applied to each recommendation given, where reasonable and practicable in the circumstances.

11. Climate implications

- 11.1 Consultation took place online where possible to reduce paper usage.
- 11.2 Consideration as to the environmental impact of temporary polling stations, which use diesel generators, was made in pre-consultation analysis as per paragraph 2.3 of Appendix A.

12. Corporate implications

- 12.1 By submitting this report, the report author has taken the following into account:

- Community safety implications
 - Environmental implications
 - ICT implications
 - Asset management implications
 - Procurement implications
 - Human resources implications
 - Planning implications
 - Data protection implications
 - Voluntary sector
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Background papers: None

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