



Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places

RECOMMENDATION

- 1.1 The Electoral Review Panel recommends that the Council approve new polling arrangements in the City for Parliamentary Elections, taking into account representations received, as follows:
- a. That the polling Place for Polling District SP5 be The Moon Hotel, Station Road, Spondon.
 - b. That polling district MV2 and MV4 be merged to create a new larger polling district – MV2, and that the polling place for this newly formed district be St John's Church Hall, Devonshire Drive.
 - c. That the polling place for Polling District NM1 be St Augustine's Community Centre, Almond Street.
 - d. That the polling place for Polling District SF1 be Osmaston Local Housing Office, Addison Road.
 - e. That the polling district boundary between SF4 and SF5 be redrawn along Redwood Road and Arleston Lane, to improve polling place access for electors in both districts.
 - f. That the polling place for Polling District SF4 be The Meeting Room, Sinfin Library, Sinfin District Centre, Arleston Lane, Sinfin.
 - g. That the polling place for Polling District SF5 be Sinfin Moor Church, Arleston Lane, Sinfin.
 - h. That the polling arrangements for other polling districts be as currently designated and shown in Appendix 2.

Maps outlining these proposed changes are displayed in the group rooms.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 2.1 The Council has always had a duty under the provisions of the Representation of the People Act 1983 – RPA – to keep the designation of polling districts and places in its area under review.

- 2.2 The Electoral Administration Act 2006 – the Act – has made amendments to the RPA with particular reference to the timing of reviews and the way in which the reviews of polling districts and places are conducted. Section 16 of the Act provides that a first full review must be completed before the end of a period of one year starting with the date that Section 16 came into force and every four years thereafter. Section 16 came into force on 1 January 2007 so the review must be completed and a final scheme agreed by 31 December 2007.
- 2.3 The Act introduced a requirement that an Acting Returning Officer must make representations to the Council on its proposed scheme. As the review is based upon the existing parliamentary constituencies and their boundaries, this means that for the City of Derby the Acting Returning Officers for Derby North, Derby South and South Derbyshire Parliamentary Constituencies were consulted. This report accurately summarises the outcome of the consultation, which needs to be taken into account by the Council in reaching its decision.
- 2.4 The Council may wish to make alterations to polling districts between reviews. In such cases the Electoral Registration Officer will now be required to publish a notice fourteen days before the publication of the revised version in a local newspaper, at the Council House and at some other prominent place in the City.
- 2.5 The arrangements made for parliamentary elections are also used at local government elections.

The Review and Consultation

- 3.1 On 18 July 2007 Full Council approved arrangements for the review, which was formally announced by public notice on 23 July 2007. The Returning Officers reported on existing arrangements and this formed the basis for consultation between 23 July and 24 September 2007.
- 3.2 Details were sent to councillors, MPs, MEPs, political parties, members of the Disabled Peoples Diversity Forum and the Council's Access Officer. All documents were published on the council's website.
- 3.3 The report now considers wards with no changes, followed by those wards where issues arose out of the consultation.
- 3.4 An Electoral Review Panel, comprising of representatives of the Conservative, Labour and Liberal Democratic parties met on 7 November 2007 to consider the outcomes of the review.

Wards with no Proposed Changes

- 4.1 The Panel agreed to propose no changes to polling arrangements, and no alternatives were suggested during consultation, in the following wards: Abbey, Alvaston, Arboretum, Blagreaves, Boulton, Chaddesden, Chellaston, Darley, Derwent, Littleover, Mackworth, and Oakwood.
- 4.2 The Panel recommends that the existing polling arrangements continue in these wards.

Wards where Representations were Received

Allestree Ward

- 5.1 A proposal was received from the headteacher at Portway Junior School during the consultation to change the Polling Place for AL2 from Portway Junior School, Robincroft Road, Allestree to Woodlands Chapel, Blenheim Drive. It was argued that the current arrangements disrupted the day to day running of Portway Junior School and the security of school children. The temporary classroom used in May 2007 would not be available in the future when there is a larger intake of pupils which will force the school to close on polling day. Also highlighted was the disruption to year 6 classes the week before stage assessment tests (SATS).
- 5.2 A counter argument was received from Ward Councillors opposing the suggested change in polling place as the mix of voters and school children, the lack of car parking at Woodland Chapel and the associated hazards were too great to consider a change from current arrangements.
- 5.3 A site visit was conducted that identified that Woodlands Chapel could be an alternative location to Portway Junior School. Due to concerns raised about volumes of traffic and safety of school children, the Traffic Control and Road Safety Team were asked to investigate and provide a response.
- 5.4 The Council's Senior Engineer, Accidents and Projects, advised that, from a traffic and road safety point of view, there is little to choose between Portway Junior School and Woodlands Chapel. They are both situated near to a busy crossroads which is more congested at school drop-off and pick-up times. Road safety measures have been installed in recent years. He did not consider that the amount of extra vehicles that would be around from voters during the school run would significantly increase the risk to the children. As with most schools in the city, the pupils have to cope with this sort of environment every single school day. He felt that, in reality, a lot of voters will deliberately stay away during the school drop-off and pick-up times. At other times when the children are safely in school, there is no problem.
- 5.5 The Senior Engineer said that some mitigation could be put in place such as some police "no parking" cones placed on Blenheim Drive between Woodlands Road and the western entrance to the shops and on the left hand side of Woodlands Road as far up as Laburnum Crescent. This would keep the junctions fairly clear for when the school finishes. Voters have several options for parking with the Woodlands Pub, the shops etc.
- 5.6 Although the Returning Officer has the power, under election rules, to require the use of a school building as a polling place, we have only used this power over recent years if no suitable alternative venue is available.
- 5.7 The Panel was concerned about the lack of car parking spaces at Woodlands Chapel and the potential health and safety issues as the chapel is sited on the apex of a junction. Most voters in the district would travel by car. The Panel felt that the current arrangements at Portway Junior School were more accessible and safer than Woodlands Chapel.
- 5.8 One representative welcomed the fact that Portway Junior School currently remained open on polling day and felt that work could be done with the school around election time as part of citizenship in relation to democracy and voting.

- 5.9 The Panel agreed to recommend to Council that no change be made to the polling place arrangements in AL2 and that the polling place remain at Portway Junior School.

Spondon Ward

- 6.1 A proposal was received during the consultation from a Ward Councillor to change the polling place for SP5 from Spondon Village Hall, Sitwell Street to The Moon Hotel, Station Road. It was argued that the village hall is not located in the polling district and was therefore not ideal. The Moon Hotel is situated in a central location in the polling district and would therefore be more convenient for the electorate of the area to attend.
- 6.2 A site visit identified that the function room at The Moon Hotel (which has previously been used as a polling place) would be a suitable alternative to Spondon Village Hall.
- 6.3 The Panel recommends that the polling place for SP5 polling district be The Moon Hotel, Station Road.

Mickleover Ward

- 7.1 Representations were received during the consultation from the headteacher of Silverhill Primary School, which is the current polling place, asking that we try and seek an alternative venue in MV1 because, it is claimed that, the school is forced to close at an inappropriate time of year as it is not allowed to have members of the public in school while it is operational, which causes disruption to the children's learning. Elections are at the beginning of May which is a critical time for revision just before the national SATS testing week and is usually near to a bank holiday. A letter reiterating these concerns was also received from the School governing body.
- 7.2 An investigation was made as to the suitability and availability of other venues in MV1, including the Honeycomb public house, the Great Northern public house, Mickelover Football Club and Mickelover Memorial Hall. These venues were deemed as unsuitable due to availability, suitability or not being in the MV1 polling district. A site visit was carried out at the Vicarage Park Pavilion, Vicarage Road, which could possibly be a suitable alternative to Silverhill Primary School.
- 7.3 The Panel considered the findings of the Returning Officer and felt that the proposal to change the venue of the polling place to Vicarage Park Pavilion was not acceptable as the Pavilion is situated on the south boundary of the polling district so would not be reasonably accessible to voters in the northern area of the district.
- 7.4 The Panel recommends that no change be made to the to the polling place arrangements in MV1 and that the polling place remain at Silverhill Primary School.
- 7.5 A proposal was received during the consultation from a Ward Councillor. Currently the MV2 polling district polls at Ravensdale Infant School, Devonshire Drive and MV4 polling district polls at St John's Church Hall, Devonshire Drive. The Ward Councillor suggested that Polling Districts MV2 and MV4 be combined to poll at St John's Church Hall, Devonshire Drive as it is in close proximity to Ravensdale Infant School. This would mean that the school would no longer be needed as a polling station.

- 7.6 The Panel recommends that polling districts MV2 and MV4 be combined to create a new larger polling district called MV2 and that the polling place for this district be St John's Church Hall, Devonshire Drive.

Normanton Ward

- 8.1 A proposal was received during the consultation from the local Labour Party to change the polling place for NM1 polling district from The Common Room, Fairdene Court, off Lower Dale Road, to St Augustine's Community Centre, Almond Street because Fairdene Court is considered too close to the neighbouring polling place and was on the edge of the polling district.
- 8.2 During the review the Electoral Services Team received notification that Fairdene Court would not be available for any elections that take place in 2008 due to refurbishment.
- 8.3 A site visit was carried out at St Augustine's Community Centre, which was deemed to be suitable alternative to The Common Room, Fairdene Court.
- 8.4 The Panel recommends that the polling place for NM1 polling district be St Augustine's Community Centre, Almond Street.

Sinfin Ward

- 9.1 A proposal was received during the consultation from Ward Councillors regarding the general location of polling places in SF1, SF4 and SF5. It was suggested that alternative arrangements be investigated for these polling districts to make polling places more accessible for residents.
- 9.2 The current polling place for SF1 polling district is Cotton Lane Activity Centre. This polling place is situated in the northern most point of the polling district and is not easily accessible to local residents. A site visit was carried out at Osmaston Local Housing Office (this was referred to as Addison Road Neighbourhood Base in the consultation documents) and views sought of the Council's Access Officer as to the suitability of this venue as an alternative to Cotton Lane Activity Centre. The Osmaston Local Housing Office did meet access requirements and as it is in a more central location in the polling district, it is a suitable alternative to the current arrangements.
- 9.3 The current polling place for SF4 polling district is Scills Community Centre, Swallowdale Road. This polling place is outside the polling district and is situated in South Derbyshire. Concern has been raised that this polling place is unsuitable as it is not easy to find and is out of the way for most people in the polling district. In the current SF4 polling district there are no suitable alternatives to this venue.
- 9.4 The current polling place for SF5 polling district is the Meeting Room at Sinfin Library, Sinfin District Centre, Arleston Lane.
- 9.5 It was investigated whether it would be possible to locate the polling place for both SF4 and SF5 at Sinfin Library. This was deemed impractical as the space available at the library could not accommodate two polling places and it would mean that the Polling Place for SF4 would still be outside the polling district.

- 9.6 The best solution is to redraw the boundary line between SF4 and SF5 down Redwood Road and Arleston Lane. This would mean that SF4 polling district could poll at The Meeting Room Sinfin Library. Although the alternative is not central to the Polling District it is adjacent to popular local amenities.
- 9.7 A site visit was carried out at Sinfin Moor Church, Arleston Lane, which was deemed as a suitable alternative to The Meeting Room, Sinfin Library for SF5 polling district.
- 9.8 The Panel recommends that the polling place for SF1 polling district be Osmaston Local Housing Office, that the polling district boundary between SF4 and SF5 be redrawn down Redwood Road and Arleston Lane, that the polling place for SF4 polling district be The Meeting Room, Sinfin Library, Sinfin District Centre, Arleston Lane and that the polling place for SF5 polling district be Sinfin Moor Church, Arleston Lane.

Access for Voters with Disabilities

- 10.1 The new legislation, concerning the conduct of polling district and polling places reviews, requires that the consultation must actively seek comments from people who have particular expertise in relation to access to premises or facilities for persons who have different forms of disability.
- 10.2 No comments have been received from such groups. However, it should be noted that work has been undertaken over the years to provide polling places that are accessible, if necessary by using temporary ramps.
- 10.3 Only one comment was received during the consultation that was related to accessibility. The local Labour Party highlighted the necessity of a ramp to assist electors with disability or mobility needs at St Michael and All Angels Church Hall, Elvaston Lane Alvaston, polling district AN5.
- 10.4 Arrangements will be made on polling day to either use the existing ramps belonging to the church hall or alternatively provide suitable ramps for electors.
- 10.5 Information on accessibility of polling stations will continue to be monitored, for example, issues identified will be addressed through Presiding Officers questionnaires, following each election.

Next Stages to Conclude the Review

- 10.6 Any arrangements to polling district boundaries will be reflected in the revised register of electors to be published by 1 December 2007, and changes to polling places will be immediate.
- 10.7 Further representations can be made to the Electoral Commission if it is felt that the review has not been conducted in a way that meets the reasonable requirements of the electors in the constituency or any body of those electors, or that it has not taken sufficient account of the accessibility to disabled persons of polling stations within a designated polling place. Section 18D(1) of part 4 of the Electoral Administration Act specifies who can make further representations.

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Background papers: Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places Consultation Document
List of appendices: Appendix 1 – Implications
Appendix 2 – Proposed Effects of the review
Appendix 3 – Ward Maps - a set of ward maps will be available in each group room and will be available electronically at
<http://www.derby.gov.uk/CouncilGovernmentDemocracy/Elections/PollingPlaceReviewDocuments.htm>

A set of ward maps will be made available in the group rooms.

IMPLICATIONS

Financial

- 1.1 No additional costs are expected, however, as the Council must seek to ensure that all electors have such reasonable facilities for voting as are practicable in the circumstances, and have regard to the needs of electors who are disabled, any additional costs incurred will have to be absorbed.

Legal

- 2.1 Section 16 of the Electoral Administration Act 2006 amended the Representation of the People Act 1983 to require that relevant authorities must carry out periodic reviews of polling places and polling districts. The practicalities of how the reviews must be conducted are set out in The Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places (Parliamentary Elections) Regulations 2006.

Personnel

- 3.1 No personnel implications are identified directly by this report. It is anticipated that the delivery of statutory duties within the Electoral Administration Act 2006 will be delivered by the reprioritisation of existing resources. However if issues relating to personnel are highlighted these will be reported as necessary to ensure potential pressures are identified and managed.

Equalities impact

- 4.1 One of the key reasons for the new legislation is to ensure that polling places are as accessible as possible. Members of the Disabled People's Diversity Forum were sent details of the consultation and asked to comment.

Corporate priorities

- 5.1 By providing accessible polling places the work of Electoral Services contributes to the following Corporate Priority:

'providing greater opportunities for people to participate in decision about the area they live in'.

PROPOSED EFFECTS OF THE REVIEW**DERBY NORTH CONSTITUENCY**

Electorates as at 1 June 2007

Abbey Ward

PD Letters	Polling Place	Electorate
AB1N	Bramblebrook Community Centre, Stockbrook Street	2,180
AB4N	Firs Estate Primary School, Raven Street	1,938

Allestree Ward

PD Letters	Polling Place	Electorate
AL1	Evergreen Club, Cornhill, Allestree	2,775
AL2	Portway Junior School, Robincroft Road, Allestree	2,614
AL3	Holy Family Catholic Church, Blenheim Drive, Allestree	2,835
AL4	St John's Methodist Church Hall, Birchover Way, Allestree	2,692

Arboretum Ward

PD Letters	Polling Place	Electorate
AR1N	The Guild Hall, The Market Place	259

Chaddesden Ward

PD Letters	Polling Place	Electorate
CD1	Cavendish Close Infant School, Wood Road	2,305
CD2	Chaddesden Hall, Community Centre, Chaddesden Lane, Chaddesden	1,822
CD3	Chesapeake Community Centre, Chesapeake Road, Chaddesden	1,769
CD4	Cherry Tree Hill Infant School (Nursery Unit) Sunny Grove, Chaddesden	1,694
CD5	Meadow Farm Community Primary School, Foyle Avenue, Chaddesden	2,576

Darley Ward

PD Letters	Polling Place	Electorate
DL1	Darley Abbey Village Hall, Abbey Yard, Darley Abbey	1,955
DL2	Markeaton Primary School, Newton's Walk, Bromley Street	2,452
DL3	Whitecross House, Leyland Gardens	1,786
DL4	St Mary's Parish Centre, Darley Lane	1,477
DL5	Chester Green Community Centre	1,417

Derwent Ward

PD Letters	Polling Place	Electorate
DW1	Derby Homes Communal Lounge, Coniston Crescent/Knutsford Green, Chaddesden	2,836
DW2	Roe Farm Community Centre, Worcester Crescent	2,116
DW3	St Philip's Church Hall, Taddington Road, Chaddesden	1,577
DW4	The Blue Boy Public House, Wiltshire Road	1,361
DW5	Derwent Community School, St Mark's Road	2,028

Mackworth Ward

PD Letter	Polling Place	Electorate
MA1	Sure Start Building within the grounds of Reigate School, Reigate Drive, Mackworth	1,545
MA2	Mackworth Community Centre, Prince Charles Avenue, Mackworth	2,322
MA3	The Common Room, Streatham Drive, Mackworth	1,482
MA4	St Barnabas Church, Radbourne Street	2,220
MA5	Ashgate Primary School, Ashbourne Road	1,810

Oakwood Ward

PD Letters	Polling Place	Electorate
OK1	Breadsall Hilltop Youth and Adult Community Education Centre, St Andrew's View, Breadsall	1,951
OK2	Springwood Leisure Centre, Springwood Drive, Oakwood	1,486
OK3	Oakwood Community Centre, Springwood Drive, Oakwood	1,503
OK4	Springwood Leisure Centre, Springwood Drive, Oakwood	2,201
OK5	Springwood Leisure Centre, Springwood Drive, Oakwood	1,455
OK6	St Philip's Church Hall, Taddington Road, Chaddesden	1,557

Spondon Ward

PD Letters	Polling Place	Electorate
SP1	The Guide Hut, West Road, Spondon	2,270
SP2	Spondon Village Hall, Sitwell Street, Spondon	2,097
SP3	Borrow Wood Infant School, Arundel Drive, Spondon	3,068
SP4	Edmund Hall, Edmund Road, Spondon	1,489
SP5	The Moon Hotel, Station Road, Spondon	728

DERBY SOUTH CONSTITUENCY

Electorates as at 1 June 2007

Abbey Ward

PD Letters	Polling Place	Electorate
AB1S	Bramblebrook Community Centre, Stockbrook Street	52
AB2	Bemrose Community School, Uttoxeter Road	1,582
AB3	Rykeld Community Centre, Bedford Close	1,619
AB4S	Firs Estate Primary School, Raven Street	32
AB5	Carlton Road United Reformed Church Hall, Carlton Road	2,016

Alvaston Ward

PD Letters	Polling Place	Electorate
AN1	YMCA, London Road, Wilmorton	638
AN2	First Steps, Cockayne Street North, Allenton	1,163
AN3	Southgate Youth Centre, Brighton Road, Alvaston	3,473
AN4	Alvaston United Reformed Church Hall, Baker Street, Alvaston	1,706
AN5	St Michael's and All Angels Church Hall, Elvaston Lane, Alvaston	1,832
AN6	Keldholme Lane Community Centre, Gillamoor Court, Alvaston	2,189

Arboretum Ward

PD Letters	Polling Place	Electorate
AR1S	The Guild Hall, The Market Place	393
AR2	The Spot Function Room, 73 Sacheveral Street	2,191
AR3	The Madeley Centre, Madeley Street	2,347
AR4	Shaftesbury Sports Centre, Shaftesbury Crescent (off Cambridge Street)	2,076
AR5	The Queens Hall, London Road	821
AR6	St Chads C.E Nursery and Infant School, Gordon Road	2,149

Blagreaves Ward

PD Letters	Polling Place	Electorate
BL1	The Tea Pavilion, Rosehill Methodist Memorial Sports Ground, Littleover Lane	1,629
BL2	Royal British Legion, 61 Blagreaves Lane, Littleover	2,728
BL3	Gayton Community Centre within the grounds of Gayton Junior School, Gayton Avenue, Littleover	2,541
BL4	Newmount Methodist Church Hall, Blagreaves Lane	2,826

Boulton Ward

PD Letters	Polling Place	Electorate
BT1S	St Martin's Methodist Church Hall, Flint Street, Allenton	902

Littleover Ward

PD Letters	Polling Place	Electorate
LT1	Wren Park Primary School, Jackson Avenue	2,850
LT2	Grange Hall Community Centre, Park Lane, Littleover	2,379
LT3	Haven Christian Centre, Hollybrook Way, Littleover	4,939

Mickleover Ward

PD Letters	Polling Place	Electorate
MV1	Silverhill Primary School, Draycott Drive, Mickleover	4,275
MV2	St John's Church Hall, Devonshire Drive, Mickleover	3,967
MV3	All Saints Church Centre, Etwall Road, Mickleover	2,892

Normanton Ward

PD Letters	Polling Place	Electorate
NM1	St Augustine's Community Centre, Almond Street	2,409
NM2	Indian Community Centre, Rawdon Street	2,286
NM3	St George's Social Centre, Village Street	2,814
NM4	4 th Derby (Derwent) Scout HQ, Top of Coleridge Street, Normanton	1,023
NM5	Sunnyhill Community Centre, Coleridge Street, Sunnyhill	1,830

Sinfin Ward

PD Letters	Polling Place	Electorate
SF1	Osmaston Local Housing Office, Addison Road	1,854
SF2	St Bartholomew's Church Hall, Addison Road	1,754
SF3	Community Enterprise Centre, Sheridan Street, Sinfin	2,452
SF4	The Meeting Room, Sinfin Library, Sinfin District Centre	1,511
SF5	Sinfin Moor Church, Arleston Lane, Sinfin	2,021

SOUTH DERBYSHIRE CONSTITUENCY (PART)

Electorates as at 1 June 2007

Boulton Ward

PD Letters	Polling Place	Electorate
BT1SD	St Martin's Methodist Church Hall, Flint Street	1,057
BT2	Moorhead Primary School, Brackens Lane, Alvaston	2,310
BT3	Nunsfield House Community Centre, Boulton Lane, Alvaston	1,875
BT4	Field Lane Community Centre, Field Lane, Alvaston	2,006
BT5	The Cornishman Public House, Holbrook Road, Alvaston	2,083

Chellaston Ward

PD Letters	Polling Place	Electorate
CL1	Shelton Junior School, Carlton Avenue, Shelton Lock	3,158
CL2	The Golden Hour Club, Maple Drive, Chellaston	4,071
CL3	Chellaston Community Centre, Barleycroft, Chellaston	3,508