



Oadby & Wigston
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Polling Districts, Polling Places and Polling Stations Review (2023)

The (Acting) Returning Officer's Final Comments and Proposals

Dated: 20 November 2023

Anne Court
(Acting) Returning Officer

Printed and published by the (Acting) Returning Officer, Oadby and Wigston Borough Council,
Brocks Hill Council Offices, Washbrook Lane, Oadby, Leicester, LE2 5JJ



Contents

Introduction	4
Background.....	4
Definitions	4
Guidelines.....	5
Oadby St. Peter's.....	6
Existing Arrangements	6
(Acting) Returning Officer's Draft Comments & Proposals	6
Consultation Responses.....	6
(Acting) Returning Officer's Final Comments & Proposals	6
Oadby Grange	8
Existing Arrangements	8
(Acting) Returning Officer's Draft Comments & Proposals	8
Consultation Responses.....	8
(Acting) Returning Officer's Final Comments & Proposals	8
Oadby Uplands	10
Existing Arrangements	10
(Acting) Returning Officer's Draft Comments & Proposals	10
Consultation Responses.....	11
(Acting) Returning Officer's Final Comments & Proposals	11
Oadby Woodlands	13
Existing Arrangements	13
(Acting) Returning Officer's Draft Comments & Proposals	13
Consultation Responses.....	14
(Acting) Returning Officer's Final Comments & Proposals	14



Oadby Brocks Hill	15
Existing Arrangements	15
(Acting) Returning Officer's Draft Comments & Proposals	15
Consultation Responses.....	16
(Acting) Returning Officer's Final Comments & Proposals	16
Wigston St. Wolstan's	18
Existing Arrangements	18
(Acting) Returning Officer's Draft Comments & Proposals	18
Consultation Responses.....	18
(Acting) Returning Officer's Final Comments & Proposals	19
Wigston Meadowcourt.....	20
Existing Arrangements	20
(Acting) Returning Officer's Draft Comments & Proposals	20
Consultation Responses.....	20
(Acting) Returning Officer's Final Comments & Proposals	21
Wigston All Saints	22
Existing Arrangements	22
(Acting) Returning Officer's Draft Comments & Proposals	22
Consultation Responses.....	23
(Acting) Returning Officer's Final Comments & Proposals	23
Wigston Fields	25
Existing Arrangements	25
(Acting) Returning Officer's Draft Comments & Proposals	25
Consultation Responses.....	25
(Acting) Returning Officer's Final Comments & Proposals	26



South Wigston.....	27
Existing Arrangements	27
(Acting) Returning Officer's Draft Comments & Proposals.....	27
Consultation Responses.....	27
(Acting) Returning Officer's Final Comments & Proposals.....	28

FINAL



Introduction

This Review considers the current polling district, polling place and polling station arrangements (“Polling Arrangements”) for residents within the Borough of Oadby and Wigston. Specifically, it considers whether the existing Polling Arrangements provide reasonable facilities for voting. This Review cannot consider or make any changes to any Parliamentary constituency, Borough ward and/or County division boundaries.

The (Acting) Returning Officer (“ARO”) has taken into account feedback from previous elections and any other known issues when conducting this Review. Where appropriate, visits to polling places and polling stations have been made to consider and make comment on their suitability for electors. This document summarises the existing Polling Arrangements and provides the ARO’s draft comments and proposals going forward.

Background

In accordance with the Representation of the People Act 1983, the Electoral Administration Act 2006 and the Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013 (as amended), Oadby and Wigston Borough Council (“the Council”) is required to undertake a full compulsory review of its Polling Arrangements every five years (“a Review”). A Review must begin from 1 October 2023 and must conclude by 31 January 2025.

The Review also acknowledges the wider recommended changes to Parliamentary constituency boundaries as proposed by the Boundary Commission for England (“BCE”) setting out a new scheme of Parliamentary constituencies for England. The BCE published their final recommendations in June 2023 and, subject to approval, will take effect from the next UK Parliamentary (General) Election (“UKPGE”). Whilst the BCE’s recommendations do not affect the Parliamentary constituency comprising Oadby and Wigston – in that the Borough’s administrative area remains coterminous within the newly proposed Harborough, Oadby and Wigston constituency boundary - a review during the compulsory review period is prudent and necessary to ensure that Polling Arrangements remain fit for purpose for the next UKPGE.

The next scheduled election is due to take place on 2 May 2024 for the election of a Police and Crime Commissioner (“PCC”) for the Leicestershire Police Area. Any changes to the existing Polling Arrangements as may be approved will be implemented in time for the PCC election.

Definitions

A ‘**polling district**’ is a geographical area created by the sub-division of a UK Parliamentary constituency and coterminous within a corresponding Borough ward’s boundary. It is a purely administrative area which has no material impact on the voting experience of electors.

A ‘**polling place**’ is the general building or area in which polling stations are designated by the ARO. So far as reasonably practicable, a polling place within a polling district must be designated so that polling stations are within easy reach of all electors from across that polling district.



A **'polling station'** is the physical room or area within the polling place where voting takes place. Unlike polling districts and polling places, which are fixed by the Council, polling stations are designated by the relevant Returning Officer(s) ("RO") for use at any given election.

Guidelines

The following guideline requirements must be considered by the ARO when undertaking a review of the existing Polling Arrangements:

- All electors should have access to suitable facilities for voting, such facilities as are reasonable and practicable in the circumstances.
- Every polling place should be physically accessible to electors who are disabled, so far as is reasonable and practicable to do so.
- Each polling place should be situated within the boundary of the polling district, unless special circumstances do not allow this.
- Each polling place should be specific enough that it is clear to voters in the polling district how they will be able to reach it.

The most recent Electoral Commission ("EC") guidance also recommends that there should be no more than 2,250 electors voting in person at a polling station, unless other suitable mitigations measures are put in place (e.g. an increase in polling station staff). This is lower than previous EC guidance revised since the introduction of voter ID under the Elections Act 2022, recommending a maximum of 2,500 electors.

The ARO should consider the following features of a polling station when reviewing its suitability and in relation to existing electoral boundaries:

- **Location** - Is it reasonably accessible within/from the polling district and are there any physical street-scene barriers for voters?
- **Size** - Can it comfortably accommodate the required number of electors and the commensurate number of polling station staff?
- **Availability** - Is the building readily available in the event of both scheduled elections and any other unscheduled elections?
- **Accessibility** - Is the building accessible to those entitled to attend the polling place and can reasonable adjustments be made?



Harborough, Oadby and Wigston Constituency

Oadby St. Peter's

Existing Arrangements

Polling District	Polling Place	Polling Station	Electorate	Polling Station Electorate	Accessibility Concerns?	Other Concerns?
A	Harborough Road, Oadby, Leicester, LE2 4LA	Trinity Methodist Church	1,827	<u>1,391</u>	None	None
B	Rosemead Drive, Oadby, Leicester, LE2 5SF	United Reformed Church Hall	1,523	<u>1,246</u>	None	None

(Acting) Returning Officer's Draft Comments & Proposals

Polling District A: No amendments to the existing polling district are proposed. The ARO proposes to retain the existing polling place and polling station for electors as the review and feedback indicates that these provide reasonable facilities for voting.

Polling District B: No amendments to the existing polling district are proposed. The ARO proposes to retain the existing polling place and polling station for electors as the review and feedback indicates that these provide reasonable facilities for voting.

Consultation Responses (0)

Polling District A: None received.

Polling District B: None received.

(Acting) Returning Officer's Final Comments & Proposals

Polling District A: No amendments to the existing polling district are proposed. The ARO proposes to retain the existing polling place and polling station for electors as the review and feedback indicates that these provide reasonable facilities for voting.



Oadby & Wigston

BOROUGH COUNCIL

Polling District B: No amendments to the existing polling district are proposed. The ARO proposes to retain the existing polling place and polling station for electors as the review and feedback indicates that these provide reasonable facilities for voting.

FINAL



Harborough, Oadby and Wigston Constituency

Oadby Grange

Existing Arrangements

Polling District	Polling Place	Polling Station	Electorate	Polling Station Electorate	Accessibility Concerns?	Other Concerns?
C	New Street, Oadby, Leicester, LE2 4LJ	Immaculate Conception Church Hall	1,896	<u>1,476</u>	None	None
D	Manor Road, Oadby, Leicester, LE2 2LG	John Foster Hall, Facilities Building	1,857	<u>1,341</u>	None	None

(Acting) Returning Officer's Draft Comments & Proposals

Polling District C: No amendments to the existing polling district are proposed. The ARO proposes to retain the existing polling place and polling station for electors as the review and feedback indicates that these provide reasonable facilities for voting.

Polling District D: No amendments to the existing polling district are proposed. The ARO proposes to retain the existing polling place and polling station for electors as the review and feedback indicates that these provide reasonable facilities for voting.

Consultation Responses (0)

Polling District C: None received.

Polling District D: None received.

(Acting) Returning Officer's Final Comments & Proposals

Polling District C: No amendments to the existing polling district are proposed. The ARO proposes to retain the existing polling place and polling station for electors as the review and feedback indicates that these provide reasonable facilities for voting.



Polling District D: No amendments to the existing polling district are proposed. The ARO proposes to retain the existing polling place and polling station for electors as the review and feedback indicates that these provide reasonable facilities for voting.

FINAL



Harborough, Oadby and Wigston Constituency

Oadby Uplands

Existing Arrangements

Polling District	Polling Place	Polling Station	Electorate	Polling Station Electorate	Accessibility Concerns?	Other Concerns?
E	St. Pauls Close, Oadby, Leicester, LE2 4LZ	The Barnabas Centre (Double Station)	3,304	<u>2,591</u>	None	Yes

(Acting) Returning Officer's Draft Comments & Proposals

Polling District E: The polling district's boundary is currently coterminous with the ward's boundary (i.e. there are no sub-divisions). The ARO recognises that with the designation of a single polling station, the number of voters would exceed the Electoral Commission's recommended threshold. This has been historically managed through the designation of a second polling station within the polling place through an informal split of the Register of Electors alphabetically by street name.

The ARO proposes more formal polling arrangements be implemented, by geographically splitting Polling District E into:

- Polling District E1 Comprising those streets sharing a junction off and including Uplands Road; and
- Polling District E2 Comprising those streets sharing a junction off and including Severn Road.

The spatial extents of proposed Polling Districts E1 and E2 are shown edged and shaded grey on their respective maps.

The review and feedback has also identified significant concerns regarding the continued use of the existing polling place impacting on voters' experience. These have arisen from an increase in the presence of party political campaigners over successive election cycles, often congregating in large numbers within and along the enclosed precincts of the existing polling place's car park, with access/egress narrowing further when the car park is at, or close to, its full capacity. These issues have also been compounded by a history of increasingly poor, cross-party compliance by candidates, their agents, tellers and campaigners with relevant Code of Conduct requirements and directions issued by the ARO and DARO's on polling day to reduce campaigner numbers and ensure they position themselves outside the precincts of the polling place.

At the most recent local elections in May 2023, the ARO witnessed an unprecedented escalation of such concerns and



behaviour, resulting in a high number of complaints being received by the ARO from electors who felt intimidated, whose access to the polling place was unduly impeded. The ARO and Deputy (Acting) Returning Officers (“DARO”) were required to attend the polling place on multiple occasions to advise, warn and direct campaigners, with the support of Leicestershire Police at the DARO’s request, given the persistent negativity, resistance, and disruption being caused.

To address these issues, the ARO proposes to designate the adjacent St. Paul’s Church on Hamble Road, Oadby, Leicester, LE2 4NX as the polling place for electors residing in Polling Districts E1 and E2 retaining the double polling station arrangement. The ARO’s proposal seeks to strike a fair and reasonable balance between better safeguarding voters from intimidating behaviour and access/egress difficulties by reducing the likelihood of future concentrations of campaigners within and along the narrow enclosed precincts of the existing polling place’s car park, whilst avoiding an unreasonable level of voter disruption by proposing a new polling place altogether elsewhere or outside the district(s).

By reason of special circumstance, this designation situates the polling place and respective polling station just outside the proposed Polling District E1 given that there are no other suitable venues located within the said Polling District. However, the impact to voters is considered negligible as it presents a comparable continuation of the status quo.

Consultation Responses (0)

Polling District E: None received.

(Acting) Returning Officer’s Final Comments & Proposals

Polling District E: The ARO proposes geographically splitting Polling District E into:

- Polling District E1 Comprising those streets sharing a junction off and including Uplands Road; and
- Polling District E2 Comprising those streets sharing a junction off and including Severn Road.

The spatial extents of proposed Polling Districts E1 and E2 are shown edged and shaded grey on their respective maps.

The ARO proposes to designate St. Paul’s Church on Hamble Road, Oadby, Leicester, LE2 4NX as the polling place for electors residing in Polling Districts E1 and E2 retaining the double polling station arrangement.

An alternative polling place and respective polling station for the proposed Polling District E2 at Brookside Primary School on Copse Close, Oadby, Leicester, LE2 4FU was explored. However, a visit to the school confirmed there were



Oadby & Wigston

BOROUGH COUNCIL

inadequate facilities for voting, requiring electors and polling staff to take unreasonable and lengthy diversions in/around the building to achieve suitable access/egress which, to otherwise mitigate, would necessitate a full school closure. On balance, such a closure would not be desirable given the significance of the school's specialist educational needs unit.

FINAL



Harborough, Oadby and Wigston Constituency

Oadby Woodlands

Existing Arrangements

Polling District	Polling Place	Polling Station	Electorate	Polling Station Electorate	Accessibility Concerns?	Other Concerns?
F	Beaufort Way, Oadby, Leicester, LE2 4TY	Woodland Grange Primary School (Double Station)	3,357	<u>2,600</u>	None	None

(Acting) Returning Officer's Draft Comments & Proposals

Polling District F: The polling district's boundary is currently coterminous with the ward's boundary (i.e. there are no sub-divisions). The ARO recognises that with the designation of a single polling station, the number of voters would exceed the Electoral Commission's recommended threshold. This has been historically managed through the designation of a second polling station within the polling place through an informal split of the Register of Electors alphabetically by street name.

The ARO proposes more formal polling arrangements be implemented, by geographically splitting Polling District F into:

- Polling District F1 Comprising those streets sharing a junction off and including Hunters Way, Beaufort Way, Wright Lane and Hawker Road; and
- Polling District F2 Comprising those streets sharing a junction off and including Florence Wragg Way.

The spatial extents of proposed Polling Districts F1 and F2 are shown edged and shaded grey on their respective maps.

The ARO proposes to retain the existing polling place and double polling station arrangement for electors in Polling Districts F1 and F2, as the review and feedback indicates that these provide reasonable facilities for voting.

By reason of special circumstance, this designation situates the polling place and polling station just outside Polling District F2 given that there are no other suitable venues located within the said Polling District. However, the impact, if any, to voters is considered negligible as it is a continuation of the status quo.



Consultation Responses (0)

Polling District F: None received.

(Acting) Returning Officer's Final Comments & Proposals

Polling District F: The ARO proposes geographically splitting Polling District F into:

- Polling District F1 Comprising those streets sharing a junction off and including Hunters Way, Beaufort Way, Wright Lane and Hawker Road; and
- Polling District F2 Comprising those streets sharing a junction off and including Florence Wragg Way.

The spatial extents of proposed Polling Districts F1 and F2 are shown edged and shaded grey on their respective maps.

The ARO proposes to retain the existing polling place and double polling station arrangement for electors in Polling Districts F1 and F2 as the review and feedback indicates that these provide reasonable facilities for voting.



Harborough, Oadby and Wigston Constituency

Oadby Brocks Hill

Existing Arrangements

Polling District	Polling Place(s)	Polling Station(s)	Electorate	Polling Station Electorate	Accessibility Concerns?	Other Concerns?
G	Coombe Rise, Oadby, Leicester, LE2 5TW Washbrook Lane, Oadby, Leicester, LE2 5QG	Coombe Park Pavilion Parklands Leisure Centre (Function Suite)	3,250	<u>2,358</u>	None	Yes

(Acting) Returning Officer's Draft Comments & Proposals

Polling District G: The polling district's boundary is currently coterminous with the ward's boundary (i.e. there are no sub-divisions). The ARO recognises that with the designation of a single polling station, the number of voters would exceed the Electoral Commission's recommended threshold. This has been temporarily managed through the designation of a second polling place and polling station at Parklands Leisure Centre, through an informal split of the Register of Electors comprising of those streets located west of and including Briar Walk and Briar Meads, with a smaller polling station electorate of 1,069.

The ARO proposes more formal polling arrangements be implemented and which achieve a more equal distribution of electors between the two proposed designated polling places, by geographically splitting Polling District G into:

- Polling District G1 Comprising of those streets located west of and including Briar Walk and Briar Meads and sharing a junction off and including Ash Tree Road up to and including numbers 33 and 54;
- Polling District G2 Comprising all those remaining streets located south-west of Glen Road (A6).

The spatial extents of proposed Polling Districts G1 and G2 are shown edged and shaded grey on their respective maps.

The review and feedback has also provided an opportunity to reconsider residual concerns regarding the continued use of Parklands Leisure Centre as a polling place and polling station due its relative remoteness and elector walking



distances involved. To address these concerns, the ARO proposes to retain the existing polling arrangements for electors residing in Polling District G2, and designate Brocks Hill Primary School on Howdon Road, Oadby, Leicester, LE2 5WP as the polling place and polling station for electors residing in Polling District G1.

By reason of special circumstance, this designation situates the polling place and polling station just outside Polling District G1 given that there are no other suitable venues located within the said Polling District. A visit to the school has confirmed that there are reasonable facilities for voting.

Consultation Responses (2)

Polling District G: The responses welcomed the proposal in designating Brocks Hill Primary School in lieu of Parklands Leisure Centre as the proposed polling place and polling station in Polling District G1. The responses suggested that Devonshire Court on Howdon Road, Oadby, Leicester, LE2 5WQ be explored as alternative venue to avoid the possibility of a school closure.

(Acting) Returning Officer's Final Comments & Proposals

Polling District G: The ARO proposes geographically splitting Polling District G into:

- Polling District G1 Comprising of those streets located west of and including Briar Walk and Briar Meads and sharing a junction off and including Ash Tree Road up to and including numbers 33 and 54;
- Polling District G2 Comprising all those remaining streets located south-west of Glen Road (A6).

The spatial extents of proposed Polling Districts G1 and G2 are shown edged and shaded grey on their respective maps.

The ARO proposes to retain the existing polling place and polling station arrangement for electors in in Polling District G2 as the review and feedback indicates that this provide reasonable facilities for voting.

Acting on consultees' suggestions, multiple attempts both by e-mail and telephone to contact and arrange a visit with the Home Manager at Devonshire Court were made. At the time of publishing, no response has been received back. The ARO has therefore been unable to confirm whether reasonable facilities for voting exist and, as the building is operated by a privately funded enterprise, the ARO cannot requisition the use of the venue for polling purposes by law.

The ARO therefore proposes to designate Brocks Hill Primary School on Howdon Road, Oadby, Leicester, LE2 5WP as the polling place and polling station for electors residing in Polling District G1.



Oadby & Wigston

BOROUGH COUNCIL

A visit to the school did identify the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) classroom, a self-contained area with direct access/egress for electors and polling staff, as the most appropriate room for polling purposes. Whilst it is recognised that use of this room would necessitate EYFS pupils to be decanted to another part of the building or, if this is not possible, a partial closure of the school for EYFS pupils only on polling day, a discussion with the school's Premises Manager, following consultation with the Head Teacher, has indicated that such arrangements are manageable in the circumstances.

FINAL



Harborough, Oadby and Wigston Constituency

Wigston St. Wolstan's

Existing Arrangements

Polling District	Polling Place	Polling Station	Electorate	Polling Station Electorate	Accessibility Concerns?	Other Concerns?
H	242A Leicester Road, Wigston, Leicestershire, LE18 1HQ	Freer Community Centre (Double Station)	1,757	<u>1,402</u>	None	None
I	Estoril Avenue, Wigston, Leicestershire, LE18 3RD	Glenmere Community Primary School	1,721	<u>1,399</u>	None	None
J	242A Leicester Road, Wigston, Leicestershire, LE18 1HQ	Freer Community Centre (Double Station)	1,539	<u>1,225</u>	None	None

(Acting) Returning Officer's Draft Comments & Proposals

Polling District H: No amendments to the existing polling district are proposed. The ARO proposes to retain the existing polling place and polling station for electors as the review and feedback indicates that these provide reasonable facilities for voting.

Polling District I: No amendments to the existing polling district are proposed. The ARO proposes to retain the existing polling place and polling station for electors as the review and feedback indicates that these provide reasonable facilities for voting.

Polling District J: No amendments to the existing polling district are proposed. The ARO proposes to retain the existing polling place and polling station for electors as the review and feedback indicates that these provide reasonable facilities for voting.

Consultation Responses (0)

Polling District H: None received.



Polling District I: None received.

Polling District J: None received.

(Acting) Returning Officer's Final Comments & Proposals

Polling District H: No amendments to the existing polling district are proposed. The ARO proposes to retain the existing polling place and polling station for electors as the review and feedback indicates that these provide reasonable facilities for voting.

Polling District I: No amendments to the existing polling district are proposed. The ARO proposes to retain the existing polling place and polling station for electors as the review and feedback indicates that these provide reasonable facilities for voting.

Polling District J: No amendments to the existing polling district are proposed. The ARO proposes to retain the existing polling place and polling station for electors as the review and feedback indicates that these provide reasonable facilities for voting.



Harborough, Oadby and Wigston Constituency

Wigston Meadowcourt

Existing Arrangements

Polling District	Polling Place	Polling Station	Electorate	Polling Station Electorate	Accessibility Concerns?	Other Concerns?
K1	Meadow Way, Wigston, Leicestershire, LE18 3QZ	Meadow Community Primary School	2,201	<u>1,717</u>	None	None
K2	Meadow Way, Wigston, Leicestershire, LE18 3QZ	Meadow Community Primary School	534	<u>456</u>	None	None
L	Welford Road, Wigston, Leicestershire, LE18 3TE	South Leicester Rugby Football Club (The Club House)	2,637	<u>2,064</u>	None	None

(Acting) Returning Officer's Draft Comments & Proposals

Polling District K1: No amendments to the existing polling district are proposed. The ARO proposes to retain the existing polling place and polling station for electors as the review and feedback indicates that these provide reasonable facilities for voting.

Polling District K2: No amendments to the existing polling district are proposed. The ARO proposes to retain the existing polling place and polling station for electors as the review and feedback indicates that these provide reasonable facilities for voting.

The designation of this polling district cannot be changed. It exists administratively to separate out and incorporate relevant streets into its corresponding county division boundary which is non-coterminous with the ward.

Polling District L: No amendments to the existing polling district are proposed. The ARO proposes to retain the existing polling place and polling station for electors as the review and feedback indicates that these provide reasonable facilities for voting.

Consultation Responses (0)

Polling District K1: None received.



Polling District K2: None received.

Polling District L: None received.

(Acting) Returning Officer's Final Comments & Proposals

Polling District K1: No amendments to the existing polling district are proposed. The ARO proposes to retain the existing polling place and polling station for electors as the review and feedback indicates that these provide reasonable facilities for voting.

Polling District K2: No amendments to the existing polling district are proposed. The ARO proposes to retain the existing polling place and polling station for electors as the review and feedback indicates that these provide reasonable facilities for voting.

Polling District L: No amendments to the existing polling district are proposed. The ARO proposes to retain the existing polling place and polling station for electors as the review and feedback indicates that these provide reasonable facilities for voting.



Harborough, Oadby and Wigston Constituency

Wigston All Saints

Existing Arrangements

Polling District	Polling Place	Polling Station	Electorate	Polling Station Electorate	Accessibility Concerns?	Other Concerns?
M	Horsewell Lane, Wigston, Leicestershire, LE18 2HR	Thythorn Hill Community and Sports Centre	2,133	<u>1,750</u>	None	None
N1	Bushloe End, Wigston, Leicestershire, LE18 2BA	The Elms Social and Service Club	2,184	<u>1,611</u>	None	Yes
N2	Bushloe End, Wigston, Leicestershire, LE18 2BA	The Elms Social and Service Club	291	<u>210</u>	None	Yes

(Acting) Returning Officer's Draft Comments & Proposals

Polling District M: No amendments to the existing polling district are proposed. The ARO proposes to retain the existing polling place and polling station for electors as the review and feedback indicates that these provide reasonable facilities for voting.

Polling District N1: No amendments to the existing polling district are proposed. However, the ARO understands that The Elms Social and Service Club is no longer available for use as polling place and polling station as its day-to-day operations have ceased.

The ARO proposes to designate Little Hill Primary School on Launceston Road, Wigston, Leicestershire, LE18 2GZ as the new polling place and polling station for electors residing in Polling Districts N1 and N2. At the time of publishing, a visit to the school had not been possible due to it being closed October during half-term, but one was to be arranged when it re-opened. On a desktop assessment, the ARO believes there are reasonable facilities for voting. As a contingency, the ARO continued to make enquires to explore an alternative designation of Little Hill Church on 23 Launceston Road, Wigston, Leicestershire, LE18 2GZ. The final proposed designation will feature in the ARO's final comments and proposals.

Polling District N2: As above.



The designation of this polling district cannot be changed. It exists administratively to separate out and incorporate relevant streets into its corresponding county division boundary which is non-coterminous with the ward.

Consultation Responses (1)

Polling District M: None received.

Polling District N1: The response acknowledged the need to relocate the existing polling place and polling station at The Elms Social and Service Club for Polling Districts N1 and N2. The response considered that the proposed Little Hill Primary School and Little Hill Church were located too far from the existing venue and would not therefore benefit electors. The consultee's preferred a location closer to Wigston town centre and suggested the following alternative venues for consideration:

- Sheila Mitchell Pavilion at Peace Memorial Park on Long Street, Wigston, Leicestershire LE18 2AJ
- All Saints Church of England Primary School on Long Street, Wigston, Leicestershire, LE18 2AH
- United Reformed Church on 43 Long Street, Wigston, Leicestershire LE18 2AJ

Polling District N2: As above.

(Acting) Returning Officer's Final Comments & Proposals

Polling District M: No amendments to the existing polling district are proposed. The ARO proposes to retain the existing polling place and polling station for electors as the review and feedback indicates that these provide reasonable facilities for voting.

Polling District N1: Acknowledging the consultees' comments for a location closer to Wigston town centre and acting on the consultees' suggestions, visits were made to the Sheila Mitchell Pavilion and All Saints Church of England Primary School. Whilst both venues do have reasonable facilities for voting when used as a single polling station (i.e. where Polling Districts N1 and N2 are administratively combined for most elections), the Pavilion building was considered too small to be able to comfortably accommodate electors and polling staff as a double polling station (i.e. at a County Council election).

Furthermore, the visit to the school did identify the hall, a self-contained area with direct access/egress for electors and polling staff, as the most appropriate room for polling purposes. A discussion with the school's Premises Manager, following consultation with the Head Teacher, also indicated the use of this room would not significantly impact the school's day-to-day operations. As such, a partial or full school closure would therefore not be required on polling day.



The ARO therefore proposes to designate All Saints Church of England Primary School on Long Street, Wigston, Leicestershire, LE18 2AH as the new polling place and polling station for electors residing in Polling Districts N1 and N2.

Multiple attempts both by e-mail and telephone to contact and arrange a visit with the advertised point of contact at the United Reformed Church were made. At the time of publishing, no response has been received back. The ARO has therefore been unable to confirm whether reasonable facilities for voting exist and, as the building is operated by a privately funded enterprise, the ARO cannot requisition the use of the venue for polling purposes by law.

For completeness, a visit to Little Hill Primary School was undertaken which did confirm that reasonable facilities for voting did exist: however, on balance, and considering consultees' comments, the ARO deems that the All Saints Church of England Primary School offer superior facilities. A Church Leader for the Little Hill Church did respond to advise that the use of the building for non-worship related purposes was prohibited by the church's governance arrangements.

Polling District N2: As above.



Harborough, Oadby and Wigston Constituency

Wigston Fields

Existing Arrangements

Polling District	Polling Place	Polling Station	Electorate	Polling Station Electorate	Accessibility Concerns?	Other Concerns?
O	Central Avenue, Wigston, Leicestershire, LE18 2AA	Central Avenue Christian Church Hall	2,141	<u>1,855</u>	None	None
P1	Burleigh Avenue, Wigston, Leicestershire, LE18 1FH	Bethel Evangelical Free Church	2,585	<u>1,915</u>	None	None
P2	Burleigh Avenue, Wigston, Leicestershire, LE18 1FH	Bethel Evangelical Free Church	361	<u>249</u>	None	None

(Acting) Returning Officer's Draft Comments & Proposals

Polling District O: No amendments to the existing polling district are proposed. The ARO proposes to retain the existing polling place and polling station for electors as the review and feedback indicates that these provide reasonable facilities for voting.

Polling District P1: No amendments to the existing polling district are proposed. The ARO proposes to retain the existing polling place and polling station for electors as the review and feedback indicates that these provide reasonable facilities for voting.

Polling District P2: No amendments to the existing polling district are proposed. The ARO proposes to retain the existing polling place and polling station for electors as the review and feedback indicates that these provide reasonable facilities for voting.

The designation of this polling district cannot be changed. It exists administratively to separate out and incorporate relevant streets into its corresponding county division boundary which is non-coterminous with the ward.

Consultation Responses (0)

Polling District O: None received.



Polling District P1: None received.

Polling District P2: None received.

(Acting) Returning Officer's Final Comments & Proposals

Polling District O: No amendments to the existing polling district are proposed. The ARO proposes to retain the existing polling place and polling station for electors as the review and feedback indicates that these provide reasonable facilities for voting.

Polling District P1: No amendments to the existing polling district are proposed. The ARO proposes to retain the existing polling place and polling station for electors as the review and feedback indicates that these provide reasonable facilities for voting.

Polling District P2: No amendments to the existing polling district are proposed. The ARO proposes to retain the existing polling place and polling station for electors as the review and feedback indicates that these provide reasonable facilities for voting.



Harborough, Oadby and Wigston Constituency

South Wigston

Existing Arrangements

Polling District	Polling Place	Polling Station	Electorate	Polling Station Electorate	Accessibility Concerns?	Other Concerns?
Q	Bassett Street, South Wigston, Leicestershire, LE18 4PE	The Menphys Hub	1,982	<u>1,732</u>	None	None
R	Blaby Road, South Wigston, Leicestershire, LE18 4LB	Blaby Road Park Pavilion	1,651	<u>1,400</u>	None	None
S	Cheshire Drive, South Wigston, Leicestershire, LE18 4WA	Fairfield Community Primary School	2,421	<u>1,932</u>	None	None

(Acting) Returning Officer's Draft Comments & Proposals

Polling District Q: No amendments to the existing polling district are proposed. The ARO proposes to retain the existing polling place and polling station for electors as the review and feedback indicates that these provide reasonable facilities for voting.

Polling District R: No amendments to the existing polling district are proposed. The ARO proposes to retain the existing polling place and polling station for electors as the review and feedback indicates that these provide reasonable facilities for voting.

Polling District S: No amendments to the existing polling district are proposed. The ARO proposes to retain the existing polling place and polling station for electors as the review and feedback indicates that these provide reasonable facilities for voting.

Note that the designation of this polling district cannot be changed. It exists administratively to separate out and incorporate relevant streets into its corresponding county division boundary which is non-coterminous with the ward.

Consultation Responses (0)



Polling District Q: None received.

Polling District R: None received.

Polling District S: None received.

(Acting) Returning Officer's Final Comments & Proposals

Polling District Q: No amendments to the existing polling district are proposed. The ARO proposes to retain the existing polling place and polling station for electors as the review and feedback indicates that these provide reasonable facilities for voting.

Polling District R: No amendments to the existing polling district are proposed. The ARO proposes to retain the existing polling place and polling station for electors as the review and feedback indicates that these provide reasonable facilities for voting.

Polling District S: No amendments to the existing polling district are proposed. The ARO proposes to retain the existing polling place and polling station for electors as the review and feedback indicates that these provide reasonable facilities for voting.