



Full Council	Thursday, 22 February 2024	Matter for Information and Decision
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Report Title: **Review of Designation of Polling Place for
Polling District G2 (Oadby Brocks Hill)**

Report Author(s): **Samuel Ball (Legal & Democratic Services Manager / Deputy
Monitoring Officer) (Deputy Acting Returning Officer)**

Purpose of Report:	To seek Council's approval on the alternative designation being proposed by the (Acting) Returning Officer (the "ARO") for the Harborough, Oadby and Wigston Constituency in respect of the polling place to be used at future elections and referenda that take place within the Borough of Oadby and Wigston for Polling District G2 only.
Report Summary:	The ARO proposes to re-designate Beauchamp College on Ridge Way, Oadby, Leicester, LE2 5TP as the polling place for electors residing in Polling District G2 in lieu of Brocks Hill Primary School on Howdon Road, Oadby, Leicester, LE2 5WP due to a change in circumstances.
Recommendation(s):	A. The content of the report and appendix be noted; and B. The Council approves the re-designation of Beauchamp College on Ridge Way, Oadby, Leicester, LE2 5TP as the polling place for electors residing in Polling District G2.
Senior Leadership, Head of Service, Manager, Officer and Other Contact(s):	<p>Anne Court (Chief Executive / Head of Paid Service) (Acting Returning Officer) (0116) 257 2602 anne.court1@oadby-wigston.gov.uk</p> <p>David Gill (Head of Law & Democracy / Monitoring Officer) (Deputy Acting Returning Officer) (0116) 257 2626 david.gill@oadby-wigston.gov.uk</p> <p>Samuel Ball (Legal & Democratic Services Manager / Deputy Monitoring Officer) (Deputy Acting Returning Officer) (0116) 257 2643 samuel.ball@oadby-wigston.gov.uk</p>
Strategic Objectives:	Our Council (SO1) Our Communities (SO2) Our Partners (SO5)
Vision and Values:	"Our Borough - The Place To Be" (Vision) Customer & Community Focused (V1)
Report Implications:-	
Legal:	There are no implications directly arising from this report.
Financial:	There are no implications directly arising from this report.
Corporate Risk	Regulatory Governance (CR6)

Management:	
Equalities and Equalities Assessment (EA):	There are no implications directly arising from this report. EA not applicable.
Human Rights:	There are no implications arising from this report.
Health and Safety:	There are no implications arising from this report.
Statutory Officers' Comments:-	
Head of Paid Service:	The report is satisfactory.
Chief Finance Officer:	The report is satisfactory.
Monitoring Officer:	The report is satisfactory.
Consultees:	None.
Background Papers:	Report entitled 'Review of Polling Districts, Polling Places and Polling Stations, Full Council' to Full Council on Tuesday 28 November 2023
Appendices:	1. Polling District G2 (Map)

1. Background

- 1.1 At an extraordinary meeting of the Full Council on 28 November 2023, Members approved the revised Polling District, Polling Places and Polling Station arrangements as proposed by the (Acting) Returning Officer ("the ARO") following a statutory review of the same.
- 1.2 On the information available to the ARO at the time, this approval included the designation of Brocks Hill Primary School on Howdon Road, Oadby, Leicester, LE2 5WP as the polling place for electors residing in Polling District G2 situated in the Oadby Brocks Hill Ward.

2. Information

- 2.1 On 30 November 2023, the ARO was contacted by the Headteacher at Brocks Hill Primary School informing us that the school had been fast-tracked for re-development under the Department of Education's School Rebuild Programme and from confirmed allocation of section 106 funding by the County Council with works anticipated as early as summer 2024.
- 2.2 Having been apprised of the nature and extent of the re-development works, on balance, the ARO has determined that such works would cause considerable disruption to the school building and general access to the site, thereby reducing its suitability and capacity for reasonable use as a polling place for the next 5-years as previously approved by Council.
- 2.3 The ARO was signposted by the Headteacher to contact her colleagues at the Lionheart Educational Trust (encompassing both Brocks Hill Primary School and Beauchamp College) to identify another suitable venue at neighbouring Beauchamp College on Ridge Way, Oadby.
- 2.4 On 18 December 2023, a visit to the college was undertaken which confirmed that there were adequate and reasonable facilities for voting available in one of the college's meeting rooms located at the very front of the site's main entrance, the use of which would have no impact on the college's day-to-day operations or resulting in any type of closure to pupils.

(Continued overleaf)

3. Proposed Change and Implementation

- 3.1 For the reasons above, the ARO proposes to re-designate Beauchamp College on Ridge Way, Oadby, Leicester, LE2 5TP as the polling place for electors in Polling District G2. The use of Coombe Park Pavilion on Coombe Rise, Oadby, Leicester, LE2 5TW as the polling place for electors in Polling District G1 remains unchanged and unaffected by this proposal.
- 3.2 The re-designation is not likely to have a detrimental effect upon the voting arrangements for affected electors due to it being within close proximity to the current designation at Brocks Hill Primary School and having comparable facilities. If approved, Beauchamp College will be used for all scheduled and non-scheduled elections with immediate effect.