



Interim Polling District and Polling Place Review 2022: The Returning Officer's Recommendations

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Introduction:

This report considers the current polling arrangements for existing polling districts A, E, F, H, DJ, DL, DR and DS. All other existing polling districts are not subject to this review. Their existing arrangements will remain in place until the next compulsory review, which will be held within 16 months from 1 October 2023.¹ This is because the changes made as part of the LGBCE boundary review have not necessitated alterations to their associated polling district boundaries.

The Returning Officer has proposed that each polling district considered in this report is split to accommodate changes to the District ward boundaries made by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England's (LGBCE) recommendations. Existing polling arrangements are proposed to remain the same where suitable, and changes have been proposed only when they are necessary and practical.

Council Officers have visited the affected polling stations to consider and make comment on their suitability for voters.

Background:

The LGBCE concluded its review of the electoral arrangements for Blaby District on the 5 July 2022. Their review resulted in the following changes:

- Reduction from 39 councillors to 36
- There will be 17 wards, a reduction of 1
- The ward boundaries of 15 wards will change, with 3 remaining the same

These recommendations will come in to force at the May 2023 elections.

As a result of changes to the boundaries of 15 wards, it is necessary to hold an Interim Review of those polling districts and their associated polling places and polling stations which have been affected by these recommendations.

Polling districts are a sub-division of the parliamentary constituency(s) contained within a district. A polling place refers to the area in which the Returning Office will locate a polling station. A polling station is the room in which voting takes place.

Once the review concludes, the Electoral Registration Officer (ERO) must make the necessary amendments to the Register of Electors to reflect the changes made. These will be published as part of the Annual Publication of the register on 1 December 2022.

¹ [Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](https://www.legislation.gov.uk)

Guidelines:

Factors which must be considered by the Returning Officer when reviewing polling districts:

- The authority must seek to ensure that all electors have such reasonable facilities for voting as are practicable in the circumstances
- The authority must seek to ensure that so far as is reasonable and practicable every polling place is accessible to electors who are disabled
- The polling place for a polling district must be an area in the district, unless special circumstances do not allow this
- Each parish must be a separate polling district
- The Electoral Commission guidance states that there should be no more than 2,500 electors voting in a polling station

The Returning Officer should consider the following features of a polling station when reviewing its suitability:

- Location- Is it reasonably accessible within the polling district and are there any barriers for voters e.g steep hills and major roads?
- Size- Can it accommodate the required number of electors?
- Availability- Is the building readily available in the event of any unscheduled elections?
- Accessibility- Is the building accessible to those entitled to attend the polling place?
- Due regard should also be given to existing electoral boundaries for County divisions and Parishes
- Whilst multiple polling districts may share a polling station if no suitable venue can be found in each polling district individually, polling districts which fall into different wards should not share a polling station where possible. This is because this arrangement can cause practical issues in the administration of the polling station and resultant count

South Leicestershire Parliamentary Constituency

Polling District: A

Existing arrangements

| Polling District | Polling Place (Geographical Description) | Polling Station | Electorate (including Absent Voters) | District Ward | Parish/Parish Ward |
|------------------|--|---------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------|--------------------|
| A | Church Street , Blaby | Blaby Parish Centre | 814 | Saxondale | Blaby – North |

Proposed arrangements

| Polling District | Polling Place (Geographical Description) | Polling Station | Electorate (including Absent Voters) | District Ward | Parish/Parish Ward |
|------------------|--|---------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| A1 | Enderby Road, Blaby | Blaby Parish Centre | 271 | North Whetstone | Blaby- West |
| A2 | Church Street, Blaby | Blaby Parish Centre | 543 | Blaby | Blaby – North |

Returning Officers' Comments & Proposals:

As a result of LGBCE's recommendation, Polling District A will be split between two separate district wards (Blaby and North Whetstone). Therefore, the Returning Officer proposes that Polling District A is split to become Polling Districts A1 and A2 to reflect these changes. The majority of Polling District A is contained within A2 as part of the new District ward 'Blaby'. The smaller part of Polling District A (A1) comprising of approximately 271 electors will be included in the new District ward of 'North Whetstone'.

This change will affect Parish electoral arrangements for Blaby Parish. Schedule 2 of the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 provides that if a parish is to be divided between different electoral wards, it must also be divided into Parish wards so that each Parish ward lies wholly within a single ward. This has necessitated the creation of a new parish ward for Blaby Parish, to be called 'Blaby West' parish ward, which will be wholly contained within A2.

A1- As a result of LGBCE's recommendation, this small area of Blaby will be moved from the existing Blaby South ward to the new North Whetstone ward which as a result created 'Blaby West' parish ward for Blaby Parish Council. This necessitated the creation of a new polling district. Given the small size of the electorate (271 electors) it would not be practical or cost-effective to appoint a new polling station for this polling district. Existing polling arrangements will therefore remain in place, with A1 electors voting at Blaby Parish Centre.

A2- The Returning Officer recommends no change to the existing polling arrangements for electors in this area.

Polling District: E

Existing arrangements

| Polling District | Polling Place (Geographical Description) | Polling Station | Electorate (including Absent Voters) | District Ward | Parish/Parish Ward |
|------------------|--|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------------------|
| E | Braunstone Close, Braunstone Town | Braunstone Working Men's Club | 934 | Ravenhurst & Fosse | Braunstone – Ravenhurst & Fosse |

Proposed arrangements

| Polling District | Polling Place (Geographical Description) | Polling Station | Electorate (including Absent Voters) | District Ward | Parish/Parish Ward |
|------------------|--|---|--------------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------------|
| E1 | Braunstone Close, Braunstone Town | Mobile at Braunstone Working Men's Club | 603 | Braunstone Ravenhurst | Braunstone – Ravenhurst & Fosse |
| E2 | Turnbull Drive, Braunstone | NEW: St Crispin Church, Turnbull Drive | 331 | Braunstone Millfield | Braunstone – Ravenhurst & Fosse |

Returning Officer's Comments & Proposals:

As a result of the LGBCE's recommendations, Polling District E will be split between two separate District wards (Braunstone Ravenhurst and Braunstone Millfield). Therefore, the Returning Officer proposes that Polling District E is split to become Polling Districts E1 and E2 to reflect these changes.

E1- The Returning Officer recommends no change to the existing polling arrangements for electors in this area.

E2- This small area of Braunstone has moved from the existing Ravenhurst & Fosse ward to the new Braunstone Millfield ward. This necessitates the creation of a new polling district. St Crispin Church has been identified as a suitable polling station to accommodate voters in this area. A thorough evaluation of St Crispin's Church has been conducted by Officers and the venue provides good transport links, good disabled access, is of a sufficient size for the electorate and has good availability. This venue lies within H2 polling district, as it is not possible to locate a viable option within E2, which is a geographically small area. St Crispin Church offers convenient access for voters in E2, with electors walking for no longer than 13 minutes² from any area within the polling district to reach the polling station. This polling station will accommodate voters from new polling districts E2, F2 and H2 with a combined electorate of 2007, which sits below the Electoral Commissions' recommended limit of 2500 electors per polling station.

² [St Crispin's Church to Bilberry Cl, Braunstone Town, Leicester - Google Maps](#)

Polling District: F

Existing arrangements

| Polling District | Polling Place (Geographical Description) | Polling Station | Electorate (including Absent Voters) | District Ward | Parish/Parish Ward |
|------------------|--|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------------------|
| F | Braunstone Close, Braunstone Town | Braunstone Working Men's Club | 573 | Ravenhurst & Fosse | Braunstone – Ravenhurst & Fosse |

Proposed arrangements:

| Polling District | Polling Place (Geographical Description) | Polling Station | Electorate (including Absent Voters) | District Ward | Parish/Parish Ward |
|------------------|--|--|--------------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------------|
| F1 | Braunstone Close, Braunstone Town | Mobile unit at Braunstone Working Men's Club | 501 | Braunstone Ravenhurst | Braunstone – Ravenhurst & Fosse |
| F2 | Turnbull Drive, Braunstone | NEW: St Crispin Church, Turnbull Drive | 72 | Braunstone Millfield | Braunstone – Ravenhurst & Fosse |

Returning Officer's Comments & Proposals:

As a result of the LG BCE's recommendations, Polling District F will be split between two separate district wards (Braunstone Ravenhurst and Braunstone Millfield). Therefore, the Returning Officer proposes that Polling District F is split to become Polling Districts F1 and F2 to reflect these changes.

F1- The Returning Officer recommends no change to the existing polling arrangements for electors in this area.

F2- This small area of Braunstone has moved from the existing Ravenhurst & Fosse ward to the new Braunstone Millfield ward. This necessitates the creation of a new polling district. St Crispin Church has been identified as a suitable polling station to accommodate voters. A thorough evaluation of St Crispin's Church has been conducted by Officers and the venue provides good transport links, good disabled access, is of a sufficient size for the electorate and has good availability. This venue lies within H2 polling district, as it is not possible to locate a viable venue within F2. St Crispin offers convenient access for voters in F2, with electors walking for no longer than 9 minutes from any area within the polling district to reach the polling station³. This station will accommodate voters from polling districts E2, F2 and H2 with a combined electorate of 2007, which sits below the Electoral Commissions' recommended limit of 2500 electors per polling station.

³ [St Crispin's Church to 193-179 Narborough Rd S, Braunstone Town, Leicester - Google Maps](#)

Polling District: H

Existing arrangements:

| Polling District | Polling Place (Geographical Description) | Polling Station | Electorate (including Absent Voters) | District Ward | Parish/Parish Ward |
|-------------------------|---|-------------------------|---|----------------------|---------------------------------|
| H | Kingsway, Braunstone Town | Braunstone Civic Centre | 3195 | Ravenhurst & Fosse | Braunstone – Ravenhurst & Fosse |

Proposed arrangements:

| Polling District | Polling Place (Geographical Description) | Polling Station | Electorate (including Absent Voters) | District Ward | Parish/Parish Ward |
|-------------------------|---|--|---|-----------------------|---------------------------------|
| H1 | Kingsway, Braunstone Town | Braunstone Civic Centre | 1519 | Braunstone Ravenhurst | Braunstone – Ravenhurst & Fosse |
| H2 | Turnbull Drive, Braunstone | NEW: St Crispin Church, Turnbull Drive | 1604 | Braunstone Millfield | Braunstone – Ravenhurst & Fosse |

Returning Officer's Comments & Proposals:

As a result of the LGBCE's recommendations, Polling District H will be split between two separate District wards (Braunstone Ravenhurst and Braunstone Millfield). Therefore, the Returning Officer proposes that Polling District F is split to become Polling Districts H1 and H2 to reflect these changes.

H1- The Returning Officer recommends no change to the existing polling arrangements for electors in this area.

H2- This area of Braunstone has moved from the existing Ravenhurst & Fosse ward to the new Braunstone Millfield ward. This necessitates the creation of a new polling district. St Crispin Church has been identified as a suitable polling station to accommodate voters in this area. A thorough evaluation of St Crispin's Church has been conducted by Officers and the venue provides good transport links, good disabled access, is of a sufficient size for the electorate and has good availability. This venue lies within the H2 polling district. This polling station will accommodate voters from new polling districts E2, F2 and H2 with a combined electorate of 2007, which sits below the Electoral Commissions' recommended limit of 2500 electors per polling station.

Charnwood Parliamentary Constituency

Polling District: DJ

Existing arrangements:

| Polling District | Polling Place (Geographical Description) | Polling Station | Electorate (including Absent Voters) | District Ward | Parish/Parish Ward |
|-------------------------|---|------------------------|---|----------------------|---------------------------|
| Existing arrangements | | | | | |
| DJ | Stamford Street, Glenfield | Park House | 1451 | Glenfield Ellis | Glenfields – Ellis |

Proposed arrangements:

| Polling District | Polling Place (Geographical Description) | Polling Station | Electorate (including Absent Voters) | District Ward | Parish/Parish Ward |
|-------------------------|---|------------------------|---|----------------------|---------------------------|
| DJ1 | Stamford Street, Glenfield | Park House | 1310 | Glenfield Ellis | Glenfields- Ellis |
| DJ2 | Glenfield Frith Drive, Glenfield | Park House | 141 | Glenfield Faire | Glenfields- Fairestone |

Returning Officer's Comments & Proposals:

As a result of the LGBCE's recommendations, Polling District DJ will be split between two separate District wards (Glenfield Ellis and Glenfield Faire). Therefore, the Returning Officer proposes that Polling District DJ is split to become Polling Districts DJ1 and DJ2 to reflect these changes.

DJ1- The Returning Officer recommends no change to the existing polling arrangements for electors in this area.

DJ2- This area of Glenfield has been moved from Glenfield Ellis Ward to the new Glenfield Faire ward. This necessitates the creation of a new polling district. No other viable alternative polling stations have been identified by Officers to accommodate DJ2. Voter's will therefore continue their existing polling arrangements at Park House. Park House's existing polling station will now be split into two polling stations. One station will accommodate voters from DJ2 and DO. The other station will have voters from DJ1, DL2 and DK. This will ensure that voters from the two separate District wards (Glenfield Ellis and Glenfield Faire) are voting at a separate polling station and will help to alleviate some strain on the number of voters at the existing single polling station.

Polling District: DL

Existing arrangements:

| Polling District | Polling Place (Geographical Description) | Polling Station | Electorate (including Absent Voters) | District Ward | Parish/Parish Ward |
|-------------------------|---|------------------------|---|----------------------|---------------------------|
| DL | Stamford Street, Glenfield | Park House | 1088 | Glenfield Ellis | Glenfields – Ellis |

Proposed arrangements:

| Polling District | Polling Place (Geographical Description) | Polling Station | Current Electorate (including Absent Voters) | District Ward | Parish/Parish Ward |
|-------------------------|---|-------------------------------|---|----------------------|---------------------------|
| DL1 | Glenfield Frith Drive, Glenfield | Mobile at The Hall Pre-school | 153 | Glenfield Fairstone | Glenfields- Fairstone |
| DL2 | Stamford Street, Glenfield | Park House | 935 | Ellis | Glenfields- Ellis |

Returning Officer's Comments & Proposals:

As a result of the LGBCE's recommendations, Polling District DL will be split between two separate District wards (Glenfield Ellis and Glenfield Fairstone). Therefore, the Returning Officer proposes that Polling District DL is split to become Polling Districts DL1 and DL2 to reflect these changes.

DL1- This small area of Glenfield has been moved from Ellis Ward to the new Glenfield Fairstone ward. This necessitates the creation of a new polling district. Whilst Park House is the usual polling station for electors in this area, administratively this would be a difficult arrangement to maintain with 2 wards voting in the same building. As such it is proposed the electors in DL1 are relocated to the mobile unit at The Hall Pre-school. By moving voters from Park House to The Hall, there is a small reduction in the time taken to walk from DL1 to the polling station for electors. This is therefore a good alternative arrangement for voter in this area.

DL2- The Returning Officer recommends no change to the existing polling arrangements for electors in this area.

Polling District: DR

Existing arrangements:

| Polling District | Polling Place (Geographical Description) | Polling Station | Electorate (including Absent Voters) | District Ward | Parish/Parish Ward |
|-------------------------|---|------------------------|---|----------------------|---------------------------|
| DR | Hinckley Road, Leicester Forest East | St Andrews Church Hall | 544 | Forest | Leicester Forest East |

Proposed arrangements:

| Polling District | Polling Place (Geographical Description) | Polling Station | Electorate (including Absent Voters) | District Ward | Parish/Parish Ward |
|-------------------------|---|--------------------------------|---|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| DR1 | Hinckley Road, Leicester Forest East | Stafford Leys Primary School | 59 | Leicester Forest & Lubbethorpe | Leicester Forest East- Forest |
| DR2 | Holmfield Avenue, Leicester Forest East | NEW: Fossebrook Primary School | 485 | Thorpe Astley & St Mary's | Leicester Forest East- Fossebrook |

Returning Officer's Comments & Proposals:

As a result of the LGBCE's recommendations, Polling District DR will be split between two separate District wards (Leicester Forest & Lubbethorpe and Thorpe Astley & St Mary's). Therefore, the Returning Officer proposes that Polling District DR is split to become Polling Districts DR1 and DR2 to reflect these changes.

DR1- This very small area of LFE is now part of the Leicester Forest & Lubbethorpe ward and makes up a part of the new Leicester Forest East Parish Ward 'Leicester Forest'. This has necessitated the creation of a new polling district. Whilst voters from this area have previously cast their vote at St Andrews Church, continuing this arrangement would be administratively difficult with voters from two wards (Leicester Forest & Lubbethorpe and Kirby Muxloe) voting at the same polling station. The Returning Officer therefore proposes that voters in DR1 will be moved to Stafford Leys Primary School. This polling station already accommodates the majority of voters in LFE and is considered to be of sufficient size to accommodate the electorate. Staff stationed at this polling station have confirmed that this arrangement will be suitable.

DR2- This area of LFE has been moved from Forest ward to Thorpe Astley & St Mary's, whilst still remaining as part of LFE parish as the new Fossebrook parish ward. This necessitates the creation of a new polling district. Fossebrook Primary School has been identified as a good alternative to be used by electors in DR2. A thorough evaluation of The School has been conducted by Officers. The venue provides good transport links, good disabled access, is of a sufficient size for the electorate and has good availability. This will provide a convenient and accessible polling station for voters in this area.

Polling District: DS

Existing arrangements:

| Polling District | Polling Place (Geographical Description) | Polling Station | Electorate (including Absent Voters) | District Ward | Parish/Parish Ward |
|-------------------------|---|------------------------|---|----------------------|---------------------------|
| DS | Hinckley Road, Leicester Forest East | St Andrews Church Hall | 1150 | Forest | Leicester Forest East |

Proposed arrangements:

| Polling District | Polling Place (Geographical Description) | Polling Station | Electorate (including Absent Voters) | District Ward | Parish/Parish Ward |
|-------------------------|---|------------------------------|---|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| DS1 | Hinckley Road, Leicester Forest East | St Andrews Church Hall | 514 | Kirby Muxloe | Leicester Forest East- St Andrews |
| DS2 | Hinckley Road, Leicester Forest East | Stafford Leys Primary School | 636 | Leicester Forest & Lubbesthorpe | Leicester Forest East- Forest |

Returning Officer's Comments & Proposals:

As a result of the LGBCE's recommendations, Polling District DS will be split between two separate District wards (Leicester Forest & Lubbesthorpe and Kirby Muxloe). Therefore, the Returning Officer proposes that Polling District DS is split to become Polling Districts DS1 and DS2 to reflect these changes.

DS1- The Returning Officer recommends no change to the existing polling arrangements for electors in this area.

DS2- This small area of LFE is now part of the Leicester Forest & Lubbesthorpe ward and makes up a part of the new Leicester Forest East 'Parish Ward 'Forest'. This has necessitated the creation of a new polling district. Whilst voters from this area have previously cast their vote at St Andrews Church, continuing this arrangement would be administratively difficult with voters from two wards (Leicester Forest & Lubbesthorpe and Kirby Muxloe) voting at the same polling station. The Returning Officer therefore proposes that voters in DS2 are moved to Stafford Leys Primary School. This polling station already accommodates the majority of voters in Leicester Forest East and is considered to be of sufficient size to accommodate the increased electorate. Staff stationed at this polling station have confirmed that this arrangement will be suitable for voters.