



Polling District and Polling Place Review 2023: The (Acting) Returning Officer's Comments and Proposals

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Introduction:

This report considers the current polling district, polling place and polling station arrangements for residents within Blaby District. Specifically, it considers whether current arrangements provide reasonable facilities for voting.

The ARO has taken into account any known issues when conducting this review and where appropriate, council officers have visited polling stations to consider and make comment on their suitability for voters.

Background:

In accordance with the Representation of the People Act 1983, The Electoral Administration Act 2006 and the Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013, Blaby District Council is required to conduct a review of its polling places and polling districts every five years. The current compulsory review begins on 1 October 2023 and must conclude by 31 January 2025.

This review is also necessary as a result of recommended changes to Parliamentary constituency boundaries. The Boundary Commission for England (BCE) published their final recommendations in June 2023. These recommendations set out a new scheme of Parliamentary Constituencies for England. Whilst the recommendations for constituencies contained within Blaby District do not necessitate changes to the existing schedule of polling districts, it is appropriate to still conduct a review at the earliest opportunity during the compulsory review period to ensure that all polling places remain fit for purpose in preparation for the next general election.

These recommendations refer to the new parliamentary constituency boundaries.

Once the review concludes, the Electoral Registration Officer (ERO) must make the necessary amendments to the Register of Electors. These will be published as part of the Annual Publication of the register on 1 December 2023.

Definitions

A polling district is a sub-division of a parliamentary constituency contained within a district. It is a purely administrative area which has no material impact on the voting experience of residents.

A polling place refers to the area in which the (Acting) Returning Officer will locate a polling station.

A polling station is the room in which voting takes place.

Guidelines

Factors which must be considered by the (Acting) Returning Officer when reviewing polling places:

- 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 2,250 electors voting in a polling station. This is lower than previous guidance which recommended a maximum of 2500 electors.

The (Acting) 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, Parishes and District wards

South Leicestershire Constituency

Blaby

Existing arrangements:

Polling District	Polling Place	Polling Station	Polling Station Electorate	Accessibility concerns?	Other concerns?
A2	Church Street, Blaby	Blaby Parish Centre	487	None.	None.
B	Queens Road, Blaby	Stokes C of E Primary	337	None.	None.
C	Queens Road, Blaby	Stokes C of E Primary	1039	None.	None.
D	Winchester Road, Blaby	Blaby Methodist Church	2395	None.	None.

Returning Officer's Comments & Proposals:

Polling District A2: Concerns regarding the accessibility of the polling station at Blaby Parish Centre were raised at the recent District & Parish Elections, specifically in relation to the entrance of the Centre. Officers conducted a visit to the venue and determined that whilst there is a small lip at the door, the facilities for voting provided are reasonable, and disabled access is still possible. The building keyholder confirmed that electronic scooters are able to pass through the entrance with no issues. The ARO proposes to retain Blaby Parish Centre as a polling place and polling station for electors in Polling District A2 as feedback and investigation indicates that this polling place provides reasonable facilities for voting. Polling districts A1 and A2 will form one polling station, which will comply with EC requirements.

Polling District B: No amendments to the current polling arrangements are proposed. The ARO proposes to retain the existing polling place and polling station for electors in Polling District B as review and feedback indicates that this polling place provides reasonable facilities for voting. Polling districts B and C will remain combined as one polling station.

Polling District C: No amendments to the current polling arrangements are proposed. The ARO proposes to retain the existing polling place and polling station for electors in Polling District C as review and feedback indicates that this polling place provides reasonable facilities for voting. Polling districts B and C will remain combined as one polling station.

Polling District D: No amendments to the current polling arrangements are proposed. The ARO proposes to retain the existing polling place and polling station for electors in Polling District D as review and feedback indicates that this polling place provides reasonable facilities for voting. The ARO recognises that the number of voters at this polling station slightly exceeds the Electoral Commission's recommended level.

The ARO proposes to alleviate any additional pressures caused by the number of voters at this station through the provision of additional staff and equipment.

Cosby & South Whetstone

Existing arrangements:

Polling District	Polling Place	Polling Station	Polling Station Electorate	Accessibility concerns?	Other concerns?
M	Park Road, Cosby	Cosby Village Hall	2419	None.	None.
AK	Dog & Gun Lane, Whetstone	Springwell, Whetstone Baptist Church	1186	None.	None.

Returning Officer's Comments & Proposals:

Polling District M: No amendments to the current polling arrangements are proposed. The ARO proposes to retain the existing polling place and polling station for electors in Polling District M as review and feedback indicates that this polling place provides reasonable facilities for voting. The ARO recognises that the number of voters at this polling station slightly exceeds the Electoral Commission's recommended level. The ARO proposes to alleviate any additional pressures caused by the number of voters at this station through the provision of additional staff and equipment.

Polling District AK: No amendments to the current polling arrangements are proposed. The ARO proposes to retain the existing polling place and polling station for electors in Polling District AK as review and feedback indicates that this polling place provides reasonable facilities for voting.

Countesthorpe

Polling District	Polling Place	Polling Station	Polling Station Electorate	Accessibility concerns?	Other concerns?
N	Station Road, Countesthorpe	Countesthorpe Village Hall	1538	None.	None.
O	Wigston Street, Countesthorpe	Methodist Church Hall	1767	None.	None.
P	Winchester Road, Countesthorpe	Countesthorpe Academy	1773	None.	None.
Z	Main Street, Kilby	Mobile Unit at The Dog & Gun Public House	208	None.	None.

Returning Officer's Comments & Proposals:

Polling District N: No amendments to the current polling arrangements are proposed. The ARO proposes to retain the existing polling place and polling station for electors in Polling District N as review and feedback indicates that this polling place provides reasonable facilities for voting.

Polling District O: No amendments to the current polling arrangements are proposed. The ARO proposes to retain the existing polling place and polling station for electors in Polling District O as review and feedback indicates that this polling place provides reasonable facilities for voting.

Polling District P: No amendments to the current polling arrangements are proposed. The ARO proposes to retain the existing polling place and polling station for electors in Polling District P as review and feedback indicates that this polling place provides reasonable facilities for voting.

Polling District Z: No amendments to the current polling arrangements are proposed. The ARO proposes to retain the existing polling place and polling station for electors in Polling District Z as review and feedback indicates that this polling place provides reasonable facilities for voting.

Enderby

Existing arrangements:

Polling District	Polling Place	Polling Station	Polling Station Electorate	Accessibility concerns?	Other concerns?
S	Packhorse Drive, Enderby	St John's Community Centre	1446	None.	None.
T1	King Street	Enderby Civic Centre	1591	None.	None.
U	King Street	Enderby Civic Centre	1050	None.	None.

Returning Officer's Comments & Proposals:

Polling District S: No amendments to the current polling arrangements are proposed. The ARO proposes to retain the existing polling place and polling station for electors in Polling District S as review and feedback indicates that this polling place provides reasonable facilities for voting.

Polling District T1: No amendments to the current polling arrangements are proposed. The ARO proposes to retain the existing polling place and polling station for electors in Polling District T1 as review and feedback indicates that this polling place provides reasonable facilities for voting. Polling districts T1 and U will combined remain as one polling station.

Polling District U: No amendments to the current polling arrangements are proposed. The ARO proposes to retain the existing polling place and polling station for electors in Polling District U as review and feedback indicates that this polling place provides reasonable facilities for voting. Polling districts T1 and U will remain combined as one polling station.

Fosse Highcross

Existing arrangements:

Polling District	Polling Place	Polling Station	Polling Station Electorate	Accessibility concerns?	Other concerns?
R	Wilkinson Lane, Elmesthorpe	Elmesthorpe Village Hall	515	None.	None.
AE	Hinckley Road, Sapcote	Sapcote Pavilion	2419	None.	None.
AF1	Leicester Road, Sharnford	Sharnford Evergreen Hall	145	None.	None.
AF2	Leicester Road, Sharnford	Sharnford Evergreen Hall	725	None.	None.
AF3	Leicester Road, Sharnford	Sharnford Evergreen Hall	22	None.	None.

Returning Officer's Comments & Proposals:

Polling District R: No amendments to the current polling arrangements are proposed. The ARO proposes to retain the existing polling place and polling station for electors in Polling District R as review and feedback indicates that this polling place provides reasonable facilities for voting.

Polling District AE: No amendments to the current polling arrangements are proposed. The ARO proposes to retain the existing polling place and polling station for electors in Polling District AE as review and feedback indicates that this polling place provides reasonable facilities for voting. The ARO recognises that the number of voters at this polling station slightly exceeds the Electoral Commission's recommended level. The ARO proposes to alleviate any additional pressures caused by the number of voters at this station through the provision of additional staff and equipment.

Polling District AF1: No amendments to the current polling arrangements are proposed. The ARO proposes to retain the existing polling place and polling station for electors in Polling District AF1 as review and feedback indicates that this polling place provides reasonable facilities for voting. Polling districts AF1, AF2 and AF3 will remain combined as one polling station.

Polling District AF2: No amendments to the current polling arrangements are proposed. The ARO proposes to retain the existing polling place and polling station for electors in Polling District AF2 as review and feedback indicates that this polling place provides reasonable facilities for voting. Polling districts AF1, AF2 and AF3 will remain combined as one polling station.

Polling District AF3: No amendments to the current polling arrangements are proposed. The ARO proposes to retain the existing polling place and polling station for electors in Polling District AF3 as review and feedback indicates that this polling place provides reasonable facilities for voting. Polling districts AF1, AF2 and AF3 will remain combined as one polling station.

Fosse Normanton

Existing arrangements:

Polling District	Polling Place	Polling Station	Polling Station Electorate	Accessibility concerns?	Other concerns?
Y	Denman Lane, Huncote	Huncote Community Centre	1418	None.	None.
AH1	Desford Road, Thurlaston	Village Hall	20	None.	None.
AH2	Desford Road, Thurlaston	Village Hall	539	None.	None.

Returning Officer's Comments & Proposals:

Polling District Y: No amendments to the current polling arrangements are proposed. The ARO proposes to retain the existing polling place and polling station for electors in Polling District Y as review and feedback indicates that this polling place provides reasonable facilities for voting.

Polling District AH1: No amendments to the current polling arrangements are proposed. The ARO proposes to retain the existing polling place and polling station for electors in Polling District AH1 as review and feedback indicates that this polling place provides reasonable facilities for voting. Polling districts AH1 and AH2 will remain combined as one polling station.

Polling District AH2: No amendments to the current polling arrangements are proposed. The ARO proposes to retain the existing polling place and polling station for electors in Polling District AH2 as review and feedback indicates that this polling place provides reasonable facilities for voting. Polling district AH1 and AH2 will remain combined as one polling station.

Fosse Stoney Cove

Existing arrangements:

Polling District	Polling Place	Polling Station	Polling Station Electorate	Accessibility concerns?	Other concerns?
Q1	Brookes Avenue, Croft	Croft Community Centre	1121	None.	None.
Q2	Brookes Avenue, Croft	Croft Community Centre	16	None.	None.
AG	New Road, Stoney Stanton	Stoney Stanton Village Hall	2877	None.	None.

Returning Officer's Comments & Proposals:

Polling District Q1: No amendments to the current polling arrangements are proposed. The ARO proposes to retain the existing polling place and polling station for electors in Polling District Q1 as review and feedback indicates that this polling place provides reasonable facilities for voting. Polling district Q1 and Q2 will remain combined as one polling station.

Polling District Q2: No amendments to the current polling arrangements are proposed. The ARO proposes to retain the existing polling place and polling station for electors in Polling District Q2 as review and feedback indicates that this polling place provides reasonable facilities for voting. Polling district Q1 and Q2 will remain combined as one polling station.

Polling District AG: No amendments to the current polling arrangements are proposed. The ARO proposes to retain the existing polling place and polling station for electors in Polling District AG as review and feedback indicates that this polling place provides reasonable facilities for voting. The ARO recognises that the number of voters at this polling station exceeds the Electoral Commission's recommended level. The ARO proposes to alleviate any additional pressures caused by the number of voters at this station through the provisional of additional staff and equipment.

Leicester Forest & Lubbesthorpe

Existing arrangements:

Polling District	Polling Place	Polling Station	Polling Station Electorate	Accessibility concerns?	Other concerns?
T2	Tay Road, Lubbesthorpe	Lubbesthorpe Community Hub	1283	None.	None.

Returning Officer's Comments & Proposals:

Polling District T2: No amendments to the current polling arrangements are proposed. The ARO proposes to retain the existing polling place and polling station for electors in Polling District T2 as review and feedback indicates that this polling place provides reasonable facilities for voting.

Glen Parva

Existing arrangements:

Polling District	Polling Place	Polling Station	Polling Station Electorate	Accessibility concerns?	Other concerns?
V	Dorothy Avenue, Glen Parva	Glen Parva War Memorial Hall	901	None.	None.
W	Dorothy Avenue, Glen Parva	Glen Parva War Memorial Hall	1649	None.	None.
X	St. Thomas' Road, South Wigston	Parkland Primary School	1182	None.	None.

Returning Officer's Comments & Proposals:

Polling District V: No amendments to the current polling arrangements are proposed. The ARO proposes to retain the existing polling place and polling station for electors in Polling District V as review and feedback indicates that this polling place provides reasonable facilities for voting.

Polling District W: No amendments to the current polling arrangements are proposed. The ARO proposes to retain the existing polling place and polling station for electors in Polling District W as review and feedback indicates that this polling place provides reasonable facilities for voting. Polling district V and W will remain combined as one polling station.

Polling District X: No amendments to the current polling arrangements are proposed. The ARO proposes to retain the existing polling place and polling station for electors in Polling District X as review and feedback indicates that this polling place provides reasonable facilities for voting. Polling district V and W will remain combined as one polling station.

Narborough & Littlethorpe

Existing arrangements:

Polling District	Polling Place	Polling Station	Polling Station Electorate	Accessibility concerns?	Other concerns?
AA	Biddle Road, Littlethorpe	Littlethorpe Village Hall	1286	None.	None.
AB	Desford Road, Narborough	Council Chamber, Council Offices	1219	None.	None.
AC	Desford Road, Narborough	Council Chamber, Council Offices	1032	None.	None.
AD	Thornhills, Narborough	Mobile Unit at Pastures Primary School	2007	Yes.	Yes.

Returning Officer's Comments & Proposals:

Polling District AA: No amendments to the current polling arrangements are proposed. The ARO proposes to retain the existing polling place and polling station for electors in Polling District AA as review and feedback indicates that this polling place provides reasonable facilities for voting.

Polling District AB: No amendments to the current polling arrangements are proposed. The ARO proposes to retain the existing polling place and polling station for electors in Polling District AB as review and feedback indicates that this polling place provides reasonable facilities for voting. Polling district AB and AC will remain combined as one polling station.

Polling District AC: No amendments to the current polling arrangements are proposed. The ARO proposes to retain the existing polling place and polling station for electors in Polling District AC as review and feedback indicates that this polling place provides reasonable facilities for voting. Polling district AB and AC will remain combined as one polling station.

Polling District AD: The Returning Officer is aware that there have been ongoing concerns with the use of the mobile unit at Pastures Primary School. Historically, the polling station has been situated inside the school hall, which provides sufficient space for voters, however following feedback from the school, in 2020 voters were moved to a mobile unit. Feedback from polling station staff has indicated that the mobile unit is not large enough to adequately accommodate the volume of voters in this polling district. Officers have met with the Head Teacher of Pastures who raised concerns regarding the use of the school buildings. With this in mind, alternative options have been explored in detail, including a visit to Red Hill Fields Primary School. However, no suitable alternative building has been identified as appropriate for

use as a polling station. Red Hill school would need to shut in order to accommodate a polling station. It is therefore proposed that a flexible approach to use of the venue is applied. At larger turnout elections, use of the school hall is required. At lower turnout elections, a mobile unit will be appropriate.

North Whetstone

Existing arrangements:

Polling District	Polling Place	Polling Station	Polling Station Electorate	Accessibility concerns?	Other concerns?
A1	Church Street, Blaby	Blaby Parish Centre	229	None.	None.
AI	High Street, Whetstone	Whetstone Memorial Hall	2181	None.	None.
AJ	High Street, Whetstone	Whetstone Memorial Hall	1375	None.	None.

Returning Officer's Comments & Proposals:

Polling District A1: Concerns regarding the accessibility of the polling station at Blaby Parish Centre were raised at the recent District & Parish Elections, specifically in relation to the entrance of the Centre. Officers conducted a visit to the venue and determined that whilst there is a small lip at the door, the facilities for voting provided are reasonable, and disabled access is still possible. The building keyholder confirmed that electronic scooters are able to pass through the entrance with no issues. The ARO proposes to retain Blaby Parish Centre as a polling place and polling station for electors in Polling District A2 as feedback and investigation indicates that this polling place provides reasonable facilities for voting.

Polling District AI: No amendments to the current polling arrangements are proposed. The ARO proposes to retain the existing polling place and polling station for electors in Polling District AI as review and feedback indicates that this polling place provides reasonable facilities for voting.

Polling District AJ: No amendments to the current polling arrangements are proposed. The ARO proposes to retain the existing polling place and polling station for electors in Polling District AJ as review and feedback indicates that this polling place provides reasonable facilities for voting.

Mid Leicestershire Constituency

Glenfield Ellis

Existing arrangements:

Polling District	Polling Place	Polling Station	Polling Station Electorate	Accessibility concerns?	Other concerns?
DJ1	Stamford Street	Park House	1121	None.	None.
DK	Stamford Street	Park House	1636	None.	None.
DL2	Stamford Street	Park House	739	None.	None.

Returning Officer's Comments & Proposals:

Polling District DJ1 & DL2: The ARO proposes to combine Polling District DJ1 with Polling District DL2, with the new Polling District designation DL. Park House will remain the designated polling station to provide reasonable facilities for voting in this polling district. Polling District DJ1 and Polling District DL2 share the same local boundaries, county divisions, district ward and parliamentary constituency meaning that combining the polling districts is a common sense and practical approach.

These two polling districts were created as a result of the LGBCE electoral review, which necessitated the creation of a scheme of polling districts which could reflect both the old ward boundaries, and the new ones. The ordinary election of District Councillors took place on 4th May 2023. There is now therefore no requirement for the old boundaries to be reflected in the scheme of polling districts and therefore the two can now be combined.

DJ1 contains 1121 electors (excluding postal voters). DL2 contains 739 electors (excluding postal voters), The combination of the two polling districts would result in a total electorate of 1860, which is below the Electoral Commission's suggested maximum level of 2250.

Polling District DK: The ARO proposes to retain the existing polling place for electors in Polling District DK as review and feedback indicates that this polling place provides reasonable facilities for voting. Polling district DK will be combined with polling district DO to form one polling station at parliamentary elections. The ARO recognises that the number of voters at this polling station will exceed the Electoral Commission's recommended level with 2736 voters. However this arrangement will result in a significantly smaller electorate than has historically voted at this polling station (4143 electors). The ARO proposes to alleviate additional pressures caused by the number of voters at this station through the provision of additional staff and equipment.

Glenfield Faire

Existing arrangements:

Polling District	Polling Place	Polling Station	Polling Station Electorate	Accessibility concerns?	Other concerns?
DJ2	Stamford Street	Park House	116	None.	None.
DL1	Glenfield Frith Drive, Glenfield	The Hall School	167	None.	None.
DM	Glenfield Frith Drive, Glenfield	The Hall School	872	None.	None.
DN	Glenfield Frith Drive, Glenfield	The Hall School	1174	None.	None.
DO	Stamford Street	Park House	1100	None.	None.

Returning Officer's Comments & Proposals:

Polling District DJ2 & DM: The ARO proposes to combine Polling District DJ2 with Polling District DM, retaining the Polling District designation DM. Voters from DJ2 will now vote at The Hall School. Polling District DJ2 and Polling District DM share the same local boundaries, county divisions and parliamentary constituencies meaning that combining the polling districts is a common sense and practical approach.

Polling district DJ2 was created as a result of the LGBCE electoral review, which necessitated the creation of a scheme of polling districts which could reflect both the old ward boundaries, and the new ones. The ordinary election of District Councillors took place on 4th May 2023. There is now therefore no requirement for the old boundaries to be reflected in the scheme of polling districts. It is not practical to retain a polling district with only 116 voters.

DJ2 contains 116 electors (excluding postal voters). DM contains 872 electors (excluding postal voters), The combination of the two polling districts would result in total electorate of 988, which is below the Electoral Commission's suggested maximum level of 2250.

Polling District DL1 & DN:

The ARO proposes to combine Polling District DL1 with Polling District DN, retaining the Polling District designation DN. The Hall School will remain the designated polling station to provide reasonable facilities for voting in this polling district. Polling District DL1 and Polling District

DN share the same local boundaries, county divisions and parliamentary constituencies meaning that combining the polling districts is a common sense and practical approach.

These two polling districts were created as a result of the LGBCE electoral review, which necessitated the creation of a scheme of polling districts which could reflect both the old ward boundaries, and the new ones. The ordinary election of District Councillors took place on 4th May 2023. There is now therefore no requirement for the old boundaries to be reflected in the scheme of polling districts.

DL1 contains 167 electors (excluding postal voters). DN contains 1174 electors (excluding postal voters), The combination of the two polling districts would result in a total electorate of 1341, which is below the Electoral Commission's suggested maximum level of 2250.

Polling District DO: The ARO proposes to retain the existing polling place and polling station for electors in Polling District DO as review and feedback indicates that this polling place provides reasonable facilities for voting. Polling district DK will be combined with polling district DO to form one polling station at parliamentary elections. The ARO recognises that the number of voters at this polling station will exceed the Electoral Commission's recommended level with 2736 voters. However this arrangement will result in a significantly smaller electorate than has historically voted at this polling station (4143 electors). The ARO proposes to alleviate additional pressures caused by the number of voters at this station through the provision of additional staff and equipment.

Kirby Muxloe

Existing arrangements:

Polling District	Polling Place	Polling Station	Polling Station Electorate	Accessibility concerns?	Other concerns?
DP	Station Road, Kirby	Kirby Muxloe Village Hall	2944	None.	None.
DQ	Station Road, Kirby	Kirby Muxloe Village Hall	258	None.	None.

Returning Officer's Comments & Proposals:

Polling District DP: No amendments to the current polling arrangements are proposed. The ARO proposes to retain the existing polling place and polling station for electors in Polling District DP as review and feedback indicates that this polling place provides reasonable facilities for voting. The ARO recognises that the number of voters at this polling station exceeds the Electoral Commission's recommended level. The ARO proposes to alleviate any additional pressures caused by the number of voters at this station through the provision of additional staff and equipment.

Polling District DQ: No amendments to the current polling arrangements are proposed. The ARO proposes to retain the existing polling place and polling station for electors in Polling District DQ as review and feedback indicates that this polling place provides reasonable facilities for voting.

Leicester Forest & Lubbethorpe

Existing arrangements:

Polling District	Polling Place	Polling Station	Polling Station Electorate	Accessibility concerns?	Other concerns?
DR1	Stafford Leys, Leicester Forest East	Stafford Leys Community Centre	63	None.	None.
DS1	Hinckley Road, Leicester Forest East	St Andrew's Church Hall	378	None.	None.
DS2	Stafford Leys, Leicester Forest East	Stafford Leys Community Centre	558	None.	None.
DT	Stafford Leys, Leicester Forest East	Stafford Leys Community Centre	3274	None.	None.

Returning Officer's Comments & Proposals:

Polling District DR1 & DS2: The ARO proposes to combine Polling District DR1 with Polling District DS2, with the Polling District designation DR. Stafford Leys Community Centre will remain the designated polling station to provide reasonable facilities for voting in this polling district. Polling District DR1 and Polling District DS2 share the same local boundaries, county divisions and parliamentary constituencies meaning that combining the polling districts is a common sense and practical approach.

These two polling districts were created as a result of the LGBCE electoral review, which necessitated the creation of a scheme of polling districts which could reflect both the old ward boundaries, and the new ones. The ordinary election of District Councillors took place on 4th May 2023. There is now therefore no requirement for the old boundaries to be reflected in the scheme of polling districts. DR1 contains 63 electors (excluding postal voters). DS2 contains 558 electors (excluding postal voters), The combination of the two polling districts would result in a total electorate of 621, which is below the Electoral Commission's suggested maximum level of 2250.

Polling District DS1: No amendments to the current polling arrangements are proposed. The ARO proposes to retain the existing polling place and polling station for electors in Polling District DS1 as review and feedback indicates that this polling place provides reasonable facilities for voting.

Polling District DT: No amendments to the current polling arrangements are proposed. The ARO proposes to retain the existing polling place and polling station for electors in Polling District DT as review and feedback indicates that this polling place provides reasonable facilities for voting. The ARO recognises that the number of voters at this polling station exceeds the Electoral Commission's recommended level. The ARO proposes to alleviate any additional pressures caused by the number of voters at this station through the provision of additional staff and equipment.

Braunstone Millfield

Existing arrangements:

Polling District	Polling Place	Polling Station	Polling Station Electorate	Accessibility concerns?	Other concerns?
E2	Edward Avenue, Braunstone Town	St Crispin's Church	287	None.	None.
F2	Edward Avenue, Braunstone Town	St Crispin's Church	62	None.	None.
G	Hat Road, Braunstone Town	Millfield Community Nursery	1675	None.	None.
H2	Edward Avenue, Braunstone Town	St Crispin's Church	1398	None.	None.

Returning Officer's Comments & Proposals:

Polling District E2, F2 & H2:

The ARO proposes to combine Polling District E2, Polling District F2 and Polling District H2, retaining the Polling District designation H2. St Crispin's Church will remain the designated polling station to provide reasonable facilities for voting in this polling district. Polling Districts E2, F2 and H2 share the same local boundaries, county divisions and parliamentary constituency meaning that combining the polling districts is a common sense and practical approach.

These two polling districts were created as a result of the LGBCE electoral review, which necessitated the creation of a scheme of polling districts which could reflect both the old ward boundaries, and the new ones. The ordinary election of District Councillors took place on 4th May 2023. There is now therefore no requirement for the old boundaries to be reflected in the scheme of polling districts.

E2 contains 287 electors (excluding postal voters). F2 contains 62 electors (excluding postal voters), H2 contains 1398 electors. The combination of the three polling districts would result in a total electorate of 1747, which is below the Electoral Commission's suggested maximum level of 2250.

Polling District G: No amendments to the current polling arrangements are proposed. The ARO proposes to retain the existing polling place and polling station for electors in Polling District G as review and feedback indicates that this polling place provides reasonable facilities for voting.

Braunstone Ravenhurst

Existing arrangements:

Polling District	Polling Place	Polling Station	Polling Station Electorate	Accessibility concerns?	Other concerns?
E1	Braunstone Close, Braunstone Town	Braunstone Working Men's Club	491	None.	None.
F1	Braunstone Close, Braunstone Town	Braunstone Working Men's Club	428	None.	None.
H1	Kingsway, Braunstone Town	Braunstone Civic Centre	1394	None.	None.
I	Braunstone Close, Braunstone Town	Braunstone Working Men's Club	516	None.	None.
L	Kingsway North, Braunstone Town	Braunstone Town Children's Centre	711	None.	None.

Returning Officer's Comments & Proposals:

Polling Districts E1, F1 & I:

The ARO proposes to combine Polling District E1, Polling District F1 and Polling District I, with the Polling District designation I. Polling Districts E1, F1 and I share the same local boundaries, county divisions and parliamentary constituency meaning that combining the polling districts is a common sense and practical approach.

These two polling districts were created as a result of the LGBCE electoral review, which necessitated the creation of a scheme of polling districts which could reflect both the old ward boundaries, and the new ones. The ordinary election of District Councillors took place on 4th May 2023. There is now therefore no requirement for the old boundaries to be reflected in the scheme of polling districts.

E1 contains 491 electors (excluding postal voters). F1 contains 428 electors (excluding postal voters), I contains 516 electors. The combination of the three polling districts would result in a total electorate of 1435, which is below the Electoral Commission's suggested maximum level of 2250.

Historically, voters in E1, F1 and H1 have voted at Braunstone Working Men's Club. The site has now been sold and demolition work has begun. It is therefore necessary to move voters to a new polling place. The ARO proposes that Riverside Football Pavilion, located on the

grounds of Ellesmere College becomes the designated polling station to provide reasonable facilities for voting in this polling district. Whilst this venue sits just outside the border of Blaby district, it is still within reasonable distance for voters. The venue has good disabled access, good transport links, is a clearly identifiable building for voters and is of a sufficient size for the number of electors.

The ARO would welcome views on this proposal.

Polling District H1: No amendments to the current polling arrangements are proposed. The ARO proposes to retain the existing polling place and polling station for electors in Polling District H1 as review and feedback indicates that this polling place provides reasonable facilities for voting.

Polling District L: No amendments to the current polling arrangements are proposed. The ARO proposes to retain the existing polling place and polling station for electors in Polling District L as review and feedback indicates that this polling place provides reasonable facilities for voting.

Thorpe Astley & St Mary's

Existing arrangements:

Polling District	Polling Place	Polling Station	Polling Station Electorate	Accessibility concerns?	Other concerns?
DR2	Holmfield Avenue West	Fossebrook Primary School	420	None.	None.
J	St Mary's Avenue, Braunstone Town	Braunstone West Social Centre	1404	None.	None.
K1	Lakin Drive, Thorpe Astley	Thorpe Astley Community Centre	2291	None.	None.
K2	Lakin Drive, Thorpe Astley	Thorpe Astley Community Centre	152	None.	None.

Returning Officer's Comments & Proposals:

Polling District DR2: No amendments to the current polling arrangements are proposed. The ARO proposes to retain the existing polling place and polling station for electors in Polling District DR2 as review and feedback indicates that this polling place provides reasonable facilities for voting.

Polling District J: No amendments to the current polling arrangements are proposed. The ARO proposes to retain the existing polling place and polling station for electors in Polling District J as review and feedback indicates that this polling place provides reasonable facilities for voting.

Polling District K1 and K2: K1 and K2 were historically split into two polling districts to reflect that a very small section of Braunstone (K2) was within the old Charnwood constituency, whilst the larger K1 was in the South Leicestershire constituency. Both polling districts share the Thorpe Astley Community Centre polling station. Following the recent BCE review of parliamentary boundaries, both K1 and K2 in their entirety have been moved to the Mid Leicestershire constituency.

To ensure that there is no duplication of polling district codes between Blaby District Council and Charnwood Borough Council, it is proposed that K2 is re-designated as polling district K.

It is necessary to create a schedule of polling districts which is able to reflect both the old constituency boundaries, and the new ones, until the next general election has been held. This is to enable the provision of copies of the electoral register using the old boundaries to the incumbent Members of Parliament, and to allow the administration of a by-election on old boundaries should one be held before the next General Election. As such, K1 and K2 must remain as separate polling districts for the time being.

Once the next general election has been held, there will be no requirement to reflect both the new and old boundaries in the schedule of polling districts. K1 contains 2291 electors (excluding postal votes). K2 comprises of only 152 electors (excluding postal votes). It is therefore proposed that it would therefore be practical to combine K1 and K2 to form polling district K following the next general election.