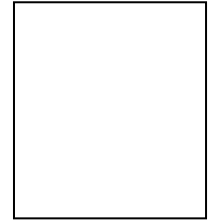




SHEFFIELD CITY COUNCIL COUNCIL REPORT



Report of: Chief Executive

Date: 2 February 2022

Subject: Review of Polling Districts & Polling Places

Author of Report: Andy Cain (0114 27 34091)

Summary: Under the Electoral Administration Act 2006 the City Council must periodically review polling districts and polling places. The latest review of polling districts took place in November 2021 to take into account feedback from the last set of local elections in May 2021 and to be able to meet directives from the Electoral Commission on the number of electors assigned to polling stations. The recommendations contained in this report follow a full consultation with the public on the draft proposals.

Reasons for Recommendations: The proposed changes will improve access to polling stations for electors.

Recommendations: That the boundary changes to polling districts and proposed polling places outlined in this report be accepted.

That a further review of the polling districts and polling places in the Ecclesall and Manor Castle wards takes place following the May 2022 elections to respond to the feedback received in respect of these wards.

Background Papers: Appendix A & B – Consultation Responses

Category of Report: OPEN/~~CLOSED~~*

Statutory and Council Policy Checklist

Financial Implications
YES Cleared by: Kayleigh Inman
Legal Implications
YES Cleared by: Nadine Wynter
Equality of Opportunity Implications
YES/ NO Cleared by: James Henderson
Tackling Health Inequalities Implications
YES /NO
Human rights Implications
YES /NO:
Environmental and Sustainability implications
YES /NO
Economic impact
YES /NO
Community safety implications
YES /NO
Human resources implications
YES/ NO
Property implications
YES/ NO
Area(s) affected
All Wards
Relevant Cabinet Portfolio Leader
Leader of Council
Relevant Scrutiny Committee if decision called in
Not applicable
Is the item a matter which is reserved for approval by the City Council?
YES/ NO
Press release
YES /NO

Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places

1. Introduction

- 1.1. The Authority is required under the Electoral Administration Act 2006 to periodically carry out a review of Polling Districts and Polling Places. The definitions of the two areas are:
 - **Polling District** – is a geographical sub-division of an electoral area. It is the authority's responsibility to divide its area into polling districts. Each polling district must be wholly contained within a single ward of the council.
 - **Polling Place** – is a geographical area in which a polling station is located. It is the authority's responsibility to designate a polling place for each polling district.
- 1.2. Polling Stations are the temporary facilities established within each polling place where electors cast their vote. Usually, each polling place has one polling station although occasionally two polling districts may share a polling place – in this case, separate polling stations will be established within the same polling place. Although this review does not include Polling Stations the Returning Officer has and will continue to regularly review them.
- 1.3. The Authority has no power to make changes to ward boundaries or names as part of the review process, as this can only be done by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England as part of an electoral review.
- 1.4. As part of the review, the Authority must adhere to the following statutory requirements in identifying polling places for use:
 - (a) the authority must seek to ensure that all electors in a constituency in its area have such reasonable facilities for voting as are practicable in the circumstances;
 - (b) the authority must seek to ensure that so far as is reasonable and practicable every polling place for which it is responsible is accessible to electors who are disabled;
 - (c) the authority must have regard to the accessibility to disabled persons of potential polling stations in any place which it is considering designating as a polling place or the designation of which as a polling place it is reviewing;

- (d) the polling place for a polling district must be an area in the district, unless special circumstances make it desirable to designate an area wholly or partly outside the district;
 - (e) the polling place for a polling district must be small enough to indicate to electors in different parts of the district how they will be able to reach the polling station.
- 1.5. Furthermore, the Electoral Commission sets the maximum number of electors to be assigned to each polling station. This is currently 2,500 and prior to the review, Sheffield had 8 polling districts with more than this number of electors – these were EA, EE, EJ, GD, LE, MD, TA, VC. The proposals set out below bring the number of electors for each polling station below this maximum level.
- 1.6. Electoral Commission guidance was followed in conducting the review. This sets out the following criteria to take into account for assessing and reviewing polling districts:
- Are the boundaries well-defined? For example, do they follow the natural boundaries of the area? If not, is it clear which properties belong in the polling district?
 - Are there suitable transport links within the polling district, and how do they relate to the areas of the polling district that are most highly populated? Are there any obstacles to voters crossing the current polling district and reaching the polling place e.g., steep hills, major roads, railway lines, rivers?
- 1.7. The Electoral Commission guidance also includes criteria that should be taken into account when assessing and reviewing polling places:
- Location: Is it reasonably accessible within the polling district? Does it avoid barriers for the voter such as steep hills, major roads, rivers, etc.? Are there any convenient transport links?
 - Size: Can it accommodate more than one polling station if required? If multiple polling stations are required, is the polling place capable of accommodating all voters going

into and out of the polling stations, even where there is a high turnout?

- Availability: Is the building readily available in the event of any unscheduled elections? Is there any possibility that the building may be demolished as part of a new development?
- Accessibility: Is the building accessible to all those entitled to attend the polling place?

1.8. These criteria were fully considered in developing proposals for amendments to polling districts and polling places. For some polling districts there are few suitable venues available for use as polling places, and these may not fulfil all of the criteria listed above. In these cases, the Council has considered a balance between the quality of the building (access, facilities etc.) and the proximity of the building to the elector.

2. Proposed Changes

2.1 The changes proposed following the review are as set out below. In summary, changes to polling districts and/or polling places were proposed for the following wards:

- Broomhill and Sharrow Vale
- City
- Darnall
- Ecclesall
- Firth Park
- Gleadless Valley
- Graves Park
- Nether Edge and Sharrow
- Shiregreen and Brightside
- Walkley

2.2 No changes to polling districts or polling places were proposed in any other wards.

Proposed Changes

WARD	Current Polling District		Proposed Polling District		Boundary/Polling Place Changes
Broomhill and Sharrow Vale	Botanical	EA	Botanical	EA	Properties on Broomgrove Lane and Broomgrove Road moved into ED (Collegiate) polling district. Properties on Clarke Dell, Clarke Drive and Clarkehouse Road moved into EG (Summerfield) polling district.
	Bowood	EB	Bowood	EB	No proposed change
	Brocco Bank	EC	Brocco Bank	EC	No proposed change
	Collegiate	ED	Collegiate	ED	Properties on Broomgrove Lane and Broomgrove Road moved from EA (Botanical) polling district
	Harcourt	EE	Harcourt	EE	Change of polling place to Berlin Calling, Barber Road
	Hunters Bar	EF	Hunters Bar	EF	No proposed change
	Summerfield	EG	Summerfield	EG	Properties on Clarke Dell, Clarke Drive and Clarkehouse Road moved from EA (Botanical) polling district.
	Tapton Hill	EH	Tapton Hill	EH	No proposed change
	Whitham	EI	Whitham	EI	No proposed change
	Broomhall	EJ	Broomhall Hanover	EJ EK	Split into two districts with Broom Street, Broomhall Place, Broomhall Street, Brunswick Street, Clarke Street, Clinton Place, Clinton Walk, Ecclesall Road, Exeter Drive, Exeter Place, Exeter Way, Filey Street (Nos. 23 – 59 and 24 – 54), Hanover Court, Hanover Square, Hanover Street (St Silas Apts), Sunny Bank, Travis Place, Upper Hanover Street, Wharnccliffe Road, and William Street (including Ecclesall Heights) moving into the new EK (Hanover) polling district. The polling place will have to remain in the same venue for now (2 stations in one venue) while alternative provision is secured.

WARD	Current Polling District		Proposed Polling District		Boundary/Polling Place Changes
City	Arundel	GA	Arundel	GA	No proposed change
	Cathedral	GC	Cathedral	GC	No proposed change
	Edmund	GD	Edmund	GD	Split into two polling districts with Alderson Road, Alderson Road North, Bramall Court (Alderson Road North), Arley Street, Baron Street, Lynthorpe House (Baron Street), Don Building (The Forge, Boston Street), Loxley Building (The Forge, Boston Street), Porter Building (The Forge, Boston Street), Sheaf Building (The Forge, Boston Street), Rivelin Building (The Forge, Boston Street), Bramall Lane (including Anchor Point), Charlotte Road (Nos. 19 – 83 & 20A - 108), Cherry Street (Nos. 56 – 64 and Anchor Point), Cherry Street South, Clough Road (Nos. 53 – 101 & 56 – 120), Countess Road, Denby Street (including The Sheldon), John Street, Margaret Street, Midland Street, Myrtle Road (Nos 7 – 21), and New Era Square moving into the new GB (Bramall Lane) polling district. It is proposed that the Platinum Lounge at Bramall Lane Football Stadium will be allocated as the polling place for the new GB polling district with the Returning Officer determining there will be one polling station within it.
			Bramall Lane	GB	
Kelham	GE	Kelham	GE	No proposed change	

	Rockingham	GF	Rockingham	GF	Revert polling place/station to The Circle, Rockingham Lane. Properties on Broad Lane, Gell Street, Glossop Road, Territorial Army Centre, Holy Green (Study Inn), Mappin Street (including Mappin Court and St George's Flats), Newcastle Street (Rockingham House), Orange Street (Huttons Buildings), Pitt Street (including I Q Steel), Portland Street (Portland Tower), Portobello Street (including Portobello House and Portobello Point), Regent Street (including Regent Heights), Regent Terrace, Rockingham Street (including Bailey Fields), Victoria Street, West Street (Nos. 138 - 240 & 248), West Street (including Cavendish House, Huttons Buildings and Tiger Works) moved from GG (Springfield) polling district.
	Springfield	GG	Springfield	GG	Properties on Broad Lane, Gell Street, Glossop Road, Territorial Army Centre, Holy Green (Study Inn), Mappin Street (including Mappin Court and St George's Flats), Newcastle Street (Rockingham House), Orange Street (Huttons Buildings), Pitt Street (including I Q Steel), Portland Street (Portland Tower), Portobello Street (including Portobello House and Portobello Point), Regent Street (including Regent Heights), Regent Terrace, Rockingham Street (including Bailey Fields), Victoria Street, West Street (Nos. 138 - 240 & 248), West Street (including Cavendish House, Huttons Buildings and Tiger Works) moved into GF (Rockingham) polling district.

WARD	Current Polling District		Proposed Polling District		Boundary/Polling Place Changes
Darnall	Acres Hill	IA	Acres Hill	IA	No proposed change
	Attercliffe	IB	Attercliffe	IB	Properties on Basford Street (Nos. 144 – 170), Clement Street, Harney Close, Phillimore Road, and Utley Croft move into IE (Greenland) polling district
	Bowden Housteads	IC	Bowden Housteads	IC	No proposed change
	Carbrook	ID	Carbrook	ID	No proposed change
	Greenland	IE	Greenland	IE	Properties on Basford Street (Nos. 144 – 170), Clement Street, Harney Close, Phillimore Road, and Utley Croft move from IB (Attercliffe) polling district
	High Hazels	IF	High Hazels	IF	No proposed change

WARD	Current Polling District		Proposed Polling District		Boundary/Polling Place Changes
Ecclesall	All Saints	LA	All Saints	LA	No proposed change
	Banner Cross	LB	Banner Cross	LB	Properties on Glenalmond Road, Huntingtower Road, Strathtay Road, and Tullibardine Road move from LE (Greystones) polling district
	Bents Green	LC	Bents Green	LC	No proposed change
	Carterknowle	LD	Carterknowle	LD	No proposed change
	Greystones	LE	Greystones	LE	Properties on Glenalmond Road, Huntingtower Road, Strathtay Road, and Tullibardine Road move into LB (Banner Cross) polling district
	Millhouses	LF	Millhouses	LF	No proposed change
	Mylnhurst	LG	Mylnhurst	LG	No proposed change

WARD	Current Polling District		Proposed Polling District		Boundary/Polling Place Changes
Firth Park	Bevercotes	MA	Bevercotes	MA	No proposed change
	Elm Lane	MB	Elm Lane	MB	Properties on Deerlands Avenue (Nos 4- 54 & 17 – 29), Drummond Crescent, Drummond Road, Huntsman Lodge, Ingelow Avenue, and Lindsay Avenue (Nos 197, 199, 201 & 203) move from MD (Lindsay) polling district
	Horninglow	MC	Horninglow	MC	No proposed change
	Lindsay	MD	Lindsay	MD	Properties on Deerlands Avenue (Nos 4- 54 & 17 – 29), Drummond Crescent, Drummond Road, Huntsman Lodge, Ingelow Avenue, and Lindsay Avenue (Nos 197, 199, 201 & 203) move into MB (Elm Lane) polling district
	Longley	ME	Longley	ME	No proposed change
	Longley Hall	MF	Longley Hall	MF	No proposed change
	Moonshine	MG	Moonshine	MG	No proposed change
	Shiregreen	MH	Shiregreen	MH	No proposed change

WARD	Current Polling District		Proposed Polling District		Boundary/Polling Place Changes
Gleadless Valley	Abney	OA	Abney	OA	No proposed change
	Heeley	OB	Heeley	OB	Properties on Chesterfield Road, Cross Park Road, Meersbrook Park Road, Molloy Place, Molloy Street, Valley Road, and The Tanneries on Whiting Street move into OG (Meersbrook Park) polling district.
	Hemsworth	OC	Hemsworth	OC	No proposed change
	Herdings	OD	Herdings	OD	No proposed change
	Mawfa	OE	Mawfa	OE	No proposed change

	Meersbrook	OF	Meersbrook	OF	Properties on Burnside Avenue and Meersbrook Park Road will move into OG (Meersbrook Park) polling district.
	Meersbrook Park	OG	Meersbrook Park	OG	Properties on Chesterfield Road, Cross Park Road, Meersbrook Park Road, Molloy Place, Molloy Street, Valley Road, and The Tanneries on Whiting Street move from OB (Heeley) polling district. Properties on Burnside Avenue and Meersbrook Park Road will move from OF (Meersbrook) polling district.
	Newfield Green	OH	Newfield Green	OH	No proposed change

WARD	Current Polling District		Proposed Polling District		Boundary/Polling Place Changes
Graves Park	Archer	PA	Archer	PA	No proposed change
	Little Norton	PB	Little Norton	PB	Following feedback, the polling place will move back to Painted Fabrics Senior Citizens Room.
	Meadow Head	PC	Meadow Head	PC	No proposed change
	Norton	PD	Norton	PD	No proposed change
	Norton Lees	PE	Norton Lees	PE	No proposed change
	Norton Woodseats	PF	Norton Woodseats	PF	No proposed change
	Woodseats	PG	Woodseats	PG	No proposed change

WARD	Current Polling District		Proposed Polling District		Boundary/Polling Place Changes
Nether Edge and Sharrow	Cemetery Road	TA	Cemetery Road	TA	Properties on Cecil Square, Grosvenor Square, Hobart Street, London Road (Nos. 194 – 254), and Sharrow Street (Nos. 70-100 and 77 – 117) move into TG (Wostenholm) polling district.
	Clifford	TB	Clifford	TB	No proposed change
	Edgebrook	TC	Edgebrook	TC	No proposed change
	Edgemount	TD	Edgemount	TD	Properties on Edge Bank, Machon Bank Road, and Sheldon Road (including Maryfield) move into TF (Kenwood) polling district.
	Highfield	TE	Highfield	TE	No proposed change
	Kenwood	TF	Kenwood	TF	Properties on Edge Bank, Machon Bank Road, and Sheldon Road (including Maryfield) move from TD (Edgemount) polling district.
	Wostenholm	TG	Wostenholm	TG	Properties on Cecil Square, Grosvenor Square, Hobart Street, London Road (Nos. 194 – 254), and Sharrow Street (Nos. 70-100 and 77 – 117) move from TB (Wostenholm) polling district.

WARD	Current Polling District		Proposed Polling District		Boundary/Polling Place Changes
Shiregreen and Brightside	Beck Road	VA	Beck Road	VA	No proposed change
	Concord	VB	Concord	VB	Properties on Bellhouse Road, Hatfield House Lane (Nos. 279 – 311), and Oaks Lane move from VC (Hartley Brook) polling district.
	Hartley Brook	VC	Hartley Brook	VC	Properties on Bellhouse Road, Hatfield House Lane (Nos. 279 – 311), and Oaks Lane move into VB (Concord) polling district.
	Jenkin	VD	Jenkin	VD	No proposed change

	Low Wincobank	VE	Low Wincobank	VE	Properties on Asquith Road, Aylesbury Crescent, Barrow Road, Evesham Close, Newman Road (1a – 27 and Newman Court), Tansley Drive, Tansley Street, Taunton Avenue, Taunton Grove, Vauxhall Close, and Vauxhall Road into VG (Wincobank) polling district.
	Upwell	VF	Upwell	VF	No proposed change
	Wincobank	VG	Wincobank	VG	Properties on Asquith Road, Aylesbury Crescent, Barrow Road, Evesham Close, Newman Road (1a – 27 and Newman Court), Tansley Drive, Tansley Street, Taunton Avenue, Taunton Grove, Vauxhall Close, and Vauxhall Road from VE (Low Wincobank) polling district.

WARD	Current Polling District		Proposed Polling District		Boundary/Polling Place Changes
Walkley	Bole Hill	ZA	Bole Hill	ZA	Feedback was provided that Walkley Cottage was not suitable. Although the polling place remains the same, the polling station will move into a portable unit within the car park.
	Burgoyne	ZB	Burgoyne	ZB	No proposed change
	Commonside	ZC	Commonside	ZC	No proposed change
	Howard Road	ZD	Howard Road	ZD	No proposed change
	Langsett	ZE	Langsett	ZE	No proposed change
	Netherthorpe	ZF	Netherthorpe	ZF	No proposed change
	St Philip's	ZG	St Philip's	ZG	No proposed change
	South Road 1	ZH	South Road 1	ZH	No proposed change
	South Road 2	ZI	South Road 2	ZI	No proposed change
	Upperthorpe	ZJ	Upperthorpe	ZJ	No proposed change
	Walkley Bank	ZK	Walkley Bank	ZK	Feedback was provided that Walkley Cottage was not suitable. Although the polling place remains the same, the polling station will move into a portable unit within the car park.
Walkley Lane	ZL	Walkley Lane	ZL	No proposed change	

3. Representations

- 3.1 The period to make representations was between 1 and 30 November 2021 and a total of 129 responses were received (125 via the online consultation site and 4 emailed in). These are set out in Appendix A (Online Responses) and Appendix B (Emailed Responses) attached.
- 3.2 Representations received were generally in favour of the boundary amendments proposed in Darnall, Ecclesall, and Gleadless Valley. Representations were received asking for less reliance on public houses and place of worship in Crookes and Crosspool, Nether Edge and Sharrow, Park and Arbourthorne and Walkley. There were no responses received in relation to Richmond or West Ecclesfield wards
- 3.3 A representation was made to request a change in polling place due to the distance between it and the respondent's address. Following this, we further propose to amend the boundary between the NA and NG polling districts. We propose to move all 36 properties on Moorside (currently NA) into NG to enable electors to vote at St Luke's Church Centre Lounge, Blackbrook Road, S10 4LQ. This would increase the total in-person electorate for NG to 1,120 electors.
- 3.4 Representations in favour of the current polling place, regardless of if this was considered for change or not, were received in Beauchief and Greenhill, Birley, East Ecclesfield, Firth Park, Gleadless Valley, Graves Park, Manor Castle, Mosborough, Nether Edge and Sharrow, Shiregreen and Brightside and Stannington wards.
- 3.5 Representations were received requesting amendments to polling places and polling district boundaries in Ecclesall and Manor Castle. We propose to revisit the polling arrangements in both of these wards following the elections in May 2022, as any amendment would alter neighbouring polling district electorates and requires more investigation and consultation.
- 3.6 Representations about Reignhead Primary School (Beighton ward) and Painted Fabrics Senior Citizens Room (Beauchief and Greenhill ward) were received following polling being held in alternative venues in May 2021, due to concerns over Covid safety. It is proposed to move polling back to these polling places in May 2022, unless the guidance in force over the election period calls for more Covid-secure polling again. In this case, the Returning Officer will again look to move polling to a suitable alternative venue.

- 3.7 Feedback was received during the polls on 6 May 2021 and afterwards regarding the provision of a polling place for the EE polling district in Broomhill and Sharrow Vale. This had moved to the Crookesmoor Lifelong Learning and Skills Centre from Hallam Tiles due to accessibility concerns. However, electors were concerned about the distance to the new station and the incline of the hill it was situated on. This polling place is no longer available and so Electoral Services have sought out a new polling place on the Barber Road, which has level access, and should address the accessibility issues of both previous polling places.

4. Financial Implications

- 4.1. Costs are incurred when an additional polling place is implemented or where there are new polling arrangements at an existing polling place. This is made up of venue hire and polling staff costs. The relevant changes in the polling districts within the City and Broomhill and Sharrow Vale wards are estimated to be £2750.
- 4.2. When City Council elections are combined with national elections (including the South Yorkshire Combined Mayoral Authority election) the cost will be shared.
- 4.3. The estimated £2750 cost is an additional burden to the election budget.

5. Equality Impact Assessment

- 5.1 The broad aims of this polling district review are to improve access to polling stations for electors.
- 5.2 This will improve the ability of electors within Sheffield who choose to exercise their right to vote in person to do so easily and efficiently.
- 5.3 An initial Equality Impact Assessment has been prepared. It demonstrates positive implications for individuals and communities as the addition of 2 polling stations will reduce the overall ratio of electors to stations.
- 5.4 Furthermore, all new stations have been visited in order to ensure access arrangements meet required standards. We will be monitoring the polling stations to ensure there are no negative impacts and will feed this into the formal review following the local election and mayoral election in May. This will improve access to voting for all but will have a particularly positive impact on disabled people.

6. Legal Implications

- 6.1. The Authority is required under section 16 of the Electoral Administration Act 2006 to periodically carry out a review of Polling Districts and Polling Places.
- 6.2. The Authority is required to publish its proposals and consult and seek representations. Once the review is completed the Authority must publish its decision together with correspondence and representations made in relation to the review.
- 6.3. This review satisfies those requirements.

7. Recommendations

- 7.1. That the boundary changes to polling districts and proposed polling places outlined in this report be accepted.
- 7.2. That a further review of the polling districts and polling places in the Ecclesall and Manor Castle wards takes place following the May 2022 elections to respond to the feedback received in respect of these wards.