

# Agenda

## General Purposes and Arbitration Committee

**Monday, 4 December 2023 at 6.00 pm**  
**In Committee Room 2 - Sandwell Council House, Oldbury**

**1 Apologies for Absence**

To receive any apologies for absence.

**2 Declarations of Interest**

To receive any declarations of interest from members relating to any item on the agenda.

**3 Minutes**

5 - 14

To confirm the minutes of the meetings held on 22 September and 12 October 2023 as a correct record.

**4 Additional Items of Business**

To determine whether there are any additional items of business arising which should be considered at the meeting as a matter of urgency.

**5 Statutory Polling District and Polling Place Review 2023**

15 - 46

To consider the proposed changes to polling districts and polling places.



**Shokat Lal**  
**Chief Executive**  
Sandwell Council House  
Freeth Street  
Oldbury  
West Midlands

**Distribution**

Councillor Melia (Chair)  
Councillors Dhariwal (Vice Chair), M Allcock, Fitzgerald, Johnston, Maycock  
and Williams

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## Minutes of General Purposes and Arbitration Committee

**22 September 2023 at 5.00pm  
at Sandwell Council House, Oldbury**

**Present:** Councillor Dhariwal (Vice Chair in the Chair);  
Councillors Johnston and Maycock.

**In Attendance:** Tony McGovern – Director of Regeneration and Growth, Manjit Gill – HR Business Partner, Kira Fleck – Principal Officer: Parking and Road Safety, I King - Unison, M Law - Unite, D James - GMB, Trisha Newton - Deputy Democratic Services Manager and Johane Gandiwa - Constitutional and Committee Services Lead Officer.

**24/23      Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received from the Chair, Councillor Melia.

**25/23      Declarations of Interest**

There were no interests declared at the meeting.

**26/23      Minutes**

**Resolved** that the minutes of the meeting held on 3 August 2023 be confirmed as a correct record.

27/23      **Urgent Items of Business**

There were no additional items of business to consider as a matter of urgency.

28/23      **Nominations for Sandwell & West Birmingham NHS Trust for the status of Freedom of the Borough**

The Local Government Act 1972 gave authority to the Council to confer the Freedom of the Borough on any person who had given eminent service to the Borough.

In accordance with the Council's scheme, a nomination had been received from Councillor Hartwell in respect of Sandwell & West Birmingham NHS Trust. The Trust had delivered in a way that had brought distinction to the borough and enhanced the borough's reputation. The Trust had also made a significant improvement to the life of others in the borough through eminent service in relation to public service.

**Resolved** that Council be recommended to confer the title of Freedom of the Borough to Sandwell & West Birmingham NHS Trust in recognition of its eminent service to the Borough of Sandwell.

29/23

### **Exclusion of the Public**

**Resolved** that the public and press be excluded from the rest of the meeting to avoid the possible disclosure of exempt information under Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act, 1972, as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006, relating to any consultations or negotiations, or contemplated consultations or negotiations, in connection with any labour relations matter arising between the authority or a Minister of the Crown and employees of, or office holders under, the authority.

30/23

### **Failure to Agree – Car Parking**

The Committee considered a failure to agree in relation to car parking at Church Street car parks, Oldbury Council House.

At the meeting of the Joint Consultative Panel held on 17 July 2023, a failure to agree was registered regarding revised parking arrangements at the Council House.

The Committee was advised that the pre-Covid arrangement had been reverted to and there was no authority to grant free parking for anyone – this would be against any policy or officer authorisation.

The Trades Union had identified concerns around lack of consultation with those affected and status-quo did not prevail during this period, resulting in a failure to agree.

Having considered all of the information before them from both parties, the Committee was minded to uphold the decision of officers. All employees should pay for parking, as per policy. It was appreciated that there had been a local decision in place previously, however, policy could not be departed from. It was recognised that there had been a process failure and lack of awareness.

In making its decision, the Committee recommended that officers revisit the employment matter and review arrangements for specific posts where there could be financial detriment when carrying out duties.

**Resolved** that the failure to agree in respect of parking at Oldbury Council House, Church Street car park be dismissed.

31/23

### **Failure to Agree – Lack of consultations on Health and Safety Implications**

The Committee considered a failure to agree in relation to lack of consultation and health and safety implications in relation to car parking at Church Street car parks, Oldbury Council House.

At the meeting of the Joint Consultative Panel held on 17 July 2023, a failure to agree was registered regarding lack of consultation and health and safety implications in relation to revised parking arrangements at the Council House.

The Committee was advised that the pre-Covid arrangement had been reverted to and there was no authority to grant free parking for anyone – this would be against any policy or officer authorisation.

Trades Unions identified that risk assessments had not been shared in relation to a number of job groups who had previously been permitted to park at the location.

Concerns were raised with regard to the West Bromwich Street car park in respect of overgrown shrubbery and safety concerns.

Officers confirmed that local policy applied and there were lone worker policies in place.



Having considered all of the information before them from both parties, the Committee was minded to uphold the decision of officers. Whilst there had been arrangements in place historically, members could not deviate from policy. Issues arising would need to be discussed locally, however, it was not clear if risks identified had been raised with management. The Committee considered that there should be an escalation process to leadership team to consider risks identified as part of assessments undertaken. The Committee was satisfied that there were policies in place around lone workers and buddying systems in place. In the absence of the Trades Unions seeing risk assessments, officers were asked to provide these. In relation to the West Bromwich Street car park, if a risk assessment was not already in place, one should be undertaken.

**Resolved** that the failure to agree in respect of lack of consultation and health and safety implications in relation to parking at Oldbury Council House, Church Street car park be dismissed.

Meeting adjourned between 6.24pm-6.38pm and 7.30pm-7.40pm.

Meeting ended at 7.47pm

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# Minutes of General Purposes and Arbitration Committee

**12 October 2023 at 5.30pm**

**Present:** Councillor Dhariwal (Vice Chair in the Chair);  
Councillors Johnston and Kalari.

**In Attendance:** Tracey Hurst (Electoral Services Manager), Suky Suthi-Nagra (Democratic and Member Services Manager) and Johane Gandiwa (Committee and Constitutional Services Lead Officer).

**32/23 Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received from the Chair, Councillor Melia.

**33/23 Declarations of Interest**

There were no interests declared at the meeting.

**34/23 Urgent Items of Business**

There were no additional items of business to consider as a matter of urgency.

## **Local Government Boundary Commission Periodic Electoral Review of Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council**

The Electoral Services Manager updated the Committee on the Local Government Boundary Commission Periodic Electoral (LGBCE) Review of Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council. The LGBCE had informed the council of its decision to carry out an electoral review of Sandwell. The review covered both the council size (number of elected councillors) and the number of wards and ward boundaries.

The Committee was advised of the detailed timelines of the boundary review process, planned governance arrangements and the methodology to be used.

The review would take place from October 2023 through to September 2025. Any changes made regarding council size and ward boundaries for Sandwell MBC would come into effect for the Local Elections in May 2026.

The successful delivery and implementation of the electoral review was a council-wide corporate priority. The delivery of the project would be overseen by the Council's Chief Executive and Senior Responsible Officer (SRO) and the Council's Monitoring Officer. A clear governance pathway for decision making and submission of the relevant information and proposals was necessary to ensure the successful delivery of the electoral review.

In November 2022, the Council resolved to undertake a further public consultation on the electoral cycle (whether to retain the current frequency of elections or move to an all-out election once every four years) during 2024. It was now proposed that the LGBCE electoral review should be prioritised and completed first, which would conclude with an all-out election to the new warding pattern. Subject to the agreement of Full Council, its previous resolution would then be implemented and a further consultation on the electoral cycle undertaken.

In response to comments and questions from the Committee, the Electoral Services Manager explained that the delivery of the project would be overseen by the Council's Chief Executive and there were adequate number of people to drive the process. A project lead would lead the process and there was a clear governance pathway for decision making and submission of the relevant information and proposals to ensure the successful delivery of the electoral review. The LGBCE would also look at other comparable Metropolitan Authorities.

The last electoral review of Sandwell MBC was conducted in 2002. The electoral changes and the arrangements came into effect at the borough-wide elections in 2004. In general, the purpose of the review, amongst others, was to ensure that there was electoral equality across all wards.

**Resolved** that Council be recommended to:

- (1) to note the Local Government Boundary Commission for England's (LGBGE) intention to carry out a periodic electoral review of Sandwell Council during the period October 2023 until September 2025 with implementation of any changes will take effect at the Local Government Election due to be held on 7 May 2026;
- (2) to authorise the Chief Executive as Senior Responsible Officer (SRO), following consultation with Group Leaders and the General Purposes and Arbitration Committee, to submit any necessary documentation or evidence to the Local Government Boundary Commission in connection with the successful delivery of the electoral review of Sandwell Council;

- (3) to establish a cross-party Boundary Review Working Group comprising 7 members to progress the electoral review of Sandwell in accordance with the Terms of Reference set out at Appendix 1;
- (4) to undertake, subject to receipt of a confirmed timetable from the LGBCE, implementation of the Full Council resolution of November 2022, an additional electoral cycle consultation be postponed until July 2026 following the all-out elections taking place on 7 May 2026 to allow implementation of Sandwell's new electoral arrangements following the conclusion of the LGBCE review.

Meeting ended at 5.55pm

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## Report to General Purposes and Arbitration Committee

4 December 2023

<b>Subject:</b>	Statutory Polling District and Polling Place Review 2023
<b>Director:</b>	Mike Jones Assistant Director, Legal and Assurance & Monitoring Officer
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Zoe Armstrong, Deputy Electoral Services Manager Zoe_armstrong@sandwell.gov.uk

### 1 Recommendations

For the reasons set out in the report, it is recommended that -

- 1.1 the Committee consider and make recommendations to council on the proposed changes to polling districts and polling places as set out in Appendix 1 to this report to take effect at all elections from 2 January 2024.
- 1.2 the Committee consider and make recommendations to council on the proposed changes to polling places as set out in Appendix 2 to take effect at any future Parliamentary General Elections only.
- 1.3 If, for any unforeseen reason, there should there be a need to change any further Polling Places or Polling Stations prior to elections in 2024, authority be delegated to the Returning Officer to authorise any such changes, following consultation with relevant Ward members.



## 2 Reasons for Recommendations

2.1 Under the Representation of the People Act 1983, the Council has a duty to divide its area into polling districts and to designate a polling place for each district.

2.2 The following definitions may be helpful when reading the report and Appendices –

- “Polling districts” are geographical electoral areas into which wards and constituencies may be sub-divided.
- “Polling places” are the buildings or areas designated by the council where electors in a polling district go to vote in person.
- “Polling stations” are the number of issuing desks in the building or area that is the designated polling place.

2.3 The Electoral Administration Act 2006, as amended, introduced a duty on all local authorities in Great Britain to review their polling districts and polling places at least once every five years.

2.4 Under S.18C of the Representation of the People Act 1983, the next compulsory review must be undertaken within a 16-month window between 1 October 2023 and 31 January 2025.


2.5 The recommendations contained in this report are the consequence of this compulsory review. The recommendations take into account:

- a) the ongoing commitment to seek to further reduce the number of schools and temporary huts used as polling places;
- b) the desire to improve voter accessibility to polling places; and
- c) the need to identify an alternative location where an existing polling place is no longer available to use.





### 3 How does this deliver objectives of the Corporate Plan?

	<p><b>Strong resilient communities</b></p> <p>The recommendations detailed in this report enable voters to engage in the democratic process by being able to vote, in person, at a suitable and convenient polling place on the day of an election.</p> <p>Electors will continue to have the right to apply to vote by post or by proxy too, should they wish to do so.</p>
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### 4 Context and Key Issues

4.1 The Electoral Administration Act 2006, as amended, introduced a duty on all local authorities in Great Britain to review their polling districts and polling places at least once every five years. Under S.18C of the Representation of the People Act 1983, the next compulsory review must be undertaken within a 16-month window between 1 October 2023 and 31 January 2025.

#### Timing and Methodology

4.2 The Notice of Review was published on 2 October 2023 and the consultation period was from 2 October 2023 until 3 November 2023. All elected members, MPs, local political parties and local disability and community groups were all invited to respond to the consultation directly. The review was also promoted on the Council's website and via social media channels. Two all member engagement sessions were also held to facilitate discussion around the proposed changes. All responses to the consultation are detailed in Appendix 3.

4.3 This review focused on those polling places that it was necessary to change due to the current venue no longer being available, or due to significant issues with the polling place at the local election in May 2023. This approach was taken due to the recent commencement of the Local Government Boundary Review of Sandwell which will require all polling district boundaries to be reviewed in 2024/25. To try and minimise voter confusion around where they are able to cast their vote, the intention with this polling district and polling place review was to only change



those that are absolutely necessary, as there will likely be many changes to polling districts and polling places at all out Local Council elections in 2026.

## Alternative Options

- 4.4 In making the recommendations outlined in this report, officers have wherever possible, considered several alternative sites in each of the affected polling districts and concluded that, for reasons based on availability, location, size and ease of access and cost, the locations detailed in Appendix 1 and 2 are the most suitable in each case. The rationale for choosing the proposed venues are detailed in the comments section of Appendix 1 and 2. Proposals for each ward have been shared with relevant councillors and their comments helped formulate the recommendations contained in the appendix.

## 5 Implications

<p><b>Resources:</b></p>	<p>Costs associated with making the proposed changes to polling places will be met by the Returning Officer’s budget.</p> <p>If all the recommended changes to polling places detailed in this report are approved, it is anticipated that a saving will be achieved as compared with the costs incurred for conducting the poll at the local elections in May 2023.</p> <p>These savings will predominantly be achieved by the loss of one temporary hut and the utilisation of council owned buildings. The saving excludes the “one-off” cost of notifying all households in the affected districts of a change of station.</p>
<p><b>Legal and Governance:</b></p>	<p>The Electoral Administration Act 2006, as amended, sets a duty on all local authorities in Great Britain to review their polling districts and polling places at least once every five years. Under the Representation of the People Act 1983, the council has a duty to divide its area into polling districts and to designate a polling place for each district.</p>



<p><b>Risk:</b></p>	<p>Changing a location of a polling place does pose some degree of risk.</p> <p>To minimise the risk of electors going to the incorrect polling place, several mitigations will be put in place. These are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Each household affected will receive a letter explaining the change and the details of their “new” polling station</li> <li>• Poll Cards will specify details of the elector’s new polling place and highlight that there has been a change to the location.</li> <li>• The council’s website will be updated to reflect the changes.</li> <li>• Details of polling places will be detailed in the Spring 2024 edition of the Sandwell Herald</li> </ul>
<p><b>Equality:</b></p>	<p>Details of the proposed recommendations have been shared with local disability and community groups.</p> <p>No objections to the recommendations have been received to date, but if any comments are received after this report has been produced, these observations will be shared verbally with Committee members.</p> <p>The Public Sector Equality Duty at S.149 Equality Act 2010 requires the council to have due regard to the following when exercising its functions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The need to eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation, and other conduct prohibited under the Act.</li> <li>• To advance equality of opportunity between those with a protected characteristic and those that do not share it; and</li> <li>• To foster good relations between those with a protected characteristic and those that do not share it.</li> </ul>



	<p>Local authorities have a duty to review the accessibility of all polling places to disabled voters and ensure that every polling place, and prospective polling place, for which it is responsible is accessible to disabled voters 'so far as is reasonable and practicable'.</p> <p>An Equalities impact assessment is not considered necessary for this report.</p>
<b>Health and Wellbeing:</b>	<p>The recommendations contained within this report enable voters, to be able to vote in person in the forthcoming elections, should they wish to do so.</p> <p>Electors will continue to have the right to apply to vote by post or by proxy too, should they wish to do so.</p>
<b>Social Value:</b>	Not applicable.
<b>Climate Change:</b>	Not applicable.
<b>Corporate Parenting:</b>	Not applicable.

## 6 Appendices

- Appendix 1 – Proposals for Changes to Polling Places
- Appendix 2 – Parliamentary Elections Only
- Appendix 3 – Consultation Responses

## 7. Background Papers

- 7.1 Reviews of polling districts, polling places and polling stations – published by the Electoral Commission.
- 7.2 Preparing for the next UK general election: new parliamentary boundaries and polling district and places review course notes – published by the Association of Electoral Administrators.



**Proposals for changes to polling places 2023/24**

**Smethwick Constituency**

**Abbey Ward**

District(s)	Elector Count	Current Polling Place	Proposed Change	Comments
ABA	761	St Hilda`s Church Hall, Abbey Road, B67 5NQ	No change	
ABB	1406	Abbey Infant School, Nursery Building, Access via Abbey Road, B67 5LR	No change	
ABC	795	Thimblemill Library, Thimblemill Road, Smethwick, B67 5RJ	No change	
ABD	1779	Bearwood Baptist Church, Bearwood Road, Smethwick, B66 4HA	No change	
ABE	1453	St Mary's Hall, St. Mary's Road, Smethwick, B66 4BX	No change	
ABF	1263	St Gregory's R.C. Primary School, Park Road & Wigorn Road Entrances, B67 5HX	No change	
ABG	1027	The Pavilion, Warley Woods Community Trust, 101 Lightwoods Hill, B67 5ED	No change	

## Appendix 1

**Blackheath Ward** (All of Blackheath ward except BLG – BLG falls in the Halesowen Borough Constituency which is administered by the Dudley A(RO))

District(s)	Elector Count	Polling Place	Proposed Change	Comments
BLA	2424	Blackheath Library, 145 High Street, Blackheath, B65 0EA	No change	
BLB	544	Rowley Regis Disability Centre, Rowley Village, B65 9AT	No change	
BLC, BLD	2104	The Parish of The English Martyrs, 297 Oldbury Road, B65 0PR	No change	
BLE	1883	Blackheath Primary School, Britannia Road, B65 9NA	No change	
BLF, BLG	1405	Highfields Primary School, Beeches Road, B65 0DA	See Appendix 2	
BLH	825	Temple Meadow Primary School, Wrights Lane, B64 6RH	See Appendix 2	

## Appendix 1

### Bristnall Ward

District(s)	Elector Count	Polling Place	Proposed Change	Comments
BRA, BRH	2034	Our Lady & St Hubert's R C Primary School, Moat Road, B68 8ED	Move BRA to the Pavilion, Barnford Park. BRH to remain at Our Lady & St Hubert's R C Primary.	The Pavilion at Barnford Park is in BRA polling district and much more convenient for voters in BRA polling district than the school. BRA and BRB would become one polling station at The Pavilion.
BRB, BRC	1871	Langley Swimming Centre, Vicarage Road, B68 8HS	Move BRB to The Pavilion, Barnford Park. Move BRC to Sandwell Aquatics Centre	Langley Swimming Centre has now closed down. The Pavilion is the most convenient polling place for voters in BRB district. Sandwell Aquatics centre would be the most convenient polling place for voters in BRC district. Sandwell Aquatics centre would then become a double station for BRC and SMA/SMB.
BRD	705	Hurst Road Community Centre, Hurst Road, Smethwick, B67 6ND	No change	
BRE	1868	Hurst Road Community Centre, Hurst Road, Smethwick, B67 6ND	No change	
BRF	1290	George Road Community Church, George Road, Oldbury, B68 9LN	No change	
BRG	1258	Barlow Homes Community Centre, Pound Road, Oldbury, B68 8NB	No change	

## Appendix 1

### Langley Ward

District(s)	Elector Count	Polling Place	Proposed Change	Comments
LAA	1993	Rounds Green Library, Martley Road, B69 1DZ	No change	
LAB, LAF	1658	Causeway Green Methodist Church, Penncricket Lane, Oldbury, B68 8LX	No change	
LAB, LAG	1694	Temporary Hut, York Road, B65 0RR	No change	
LAC	737	Langley Lodge Community Centre, Langley High Street, B69 4SN	No change	
LAD	2000	Zion United Reformed Church Hall, Langley Green Road, B69 4TP	No change	
LAE	1446	Temporary Hut on the Corner of, Heron Road and Brook Road, B68 8AE	No change	



## Appendix 1

### Old Warley Ward

District(s)	Elector Count	Polling Place	Proposed Change	Comments
OWA, OWH	2088	Oak Tree Centre, Kings Community Church, Tame Road, B68 0JP	No change	
OWB, OWC	2053	Lightwoods Primary Academy, Wolverhampton Road Site, entrance via Clent Road, B68 0LP	No change	
OWD	1618	Warley Baptist Church, Castle Road East, Oldbury, B68 9BJ	No change	
OWE, OWF	2343	Brandhall Library, Tame Road, Oldbury, B68 0JT	No change	
OWG	1091	Perryfields Primary School, Apsley Road, B68 0QY	No change	

## Appendix 1

### Smethwick Ward

District(s)	Elector Count	Polling Place	Proposed Change	Comments
SMA, SMB	1403	Temporary Hut, Your Vets, 300 Londonderry Lane, B67 7EW	Sandwell Aquatics Centre, Londonderry Lane	The Sandwell Aquatics Centre have offered the use of their staff training room for use as a polling place. This room has its own separate entrance from the car park meaning that voters will not have to use the main reception which will then not disrupt the normal functioning of the Aquatics Centre. The Aquatics centre will become a double station for BRC and SMA/SMB
SMC	1438	Smethwick Fire Station, Stony Lane, Entrance via Green Street, B67 7QW	No change	
SMD	1107	Holy Trinity Church, Church Hill Street, B67 7AH	No change	
SME, SMG	1771	Dance Studio at Harry Mitchell Leisure Centre, Broomfield, B67 7DH	No change	
SMF	2167	Dorothy Parkes Centre, Church Road, B67 6EH	No change	
SMH	1999	New Beginnings Community, St Marks Church, Thimblemill Road, B67 6LP	No change	

## Appendix 1

### Soho & Victoria Ward

District(s)	Elector Count	Polling Place	Proposed Change	Comments
SVA	1074	Smethwick Baptist Church, Regent Street, B66 3BQ	No change	
SVB	980	Windmill Community Centre, Messenger Road, Smethwick, B66 3DX	No change	
SVC	1811	Community Action Project, Windmill Lane, B66 3LX	No change	
SVD, SVE	1825	Community Action Project, Windmill Lane, B66 3LX	No change	
SVF	2463	Shireland Hall Primary Academy, Montague Road, B66 4PW	No change	
SVG	1409	Hadley Stadium, Entrance Waterloo Road, Smethwick, B66 4NL	Room in the main Hadley Stadium building rather than the current building used on Waterloo Road	<p>Reports from polling station staff that the room we currently use is poor quality. There is also a significant step leading into the room which can mean accessibility is difficult.</p> <p>A suitable room in the main Hadley Stadium building (the multi-purpose room) has been identified. This room is just off the main reception and meets all accessibility needs. The pathway from Waterloo Road will also be open on polling day meaning that any voters accessing the site from that direction will only have an extra 1 minute walk to make.</p>

## Appendix 1

District(s)	Elector Count	Polling Place	Proposed Change	Comments
				External lighting on this pathway will be on.
SVH	1407	Smethwick Heritage Centre, Victoria Park Lodge, High Street, B66 3NJ	No change	

## St. Paul's Ward

District(s)	Elector Count	Polling Place	Proposed Change	Comments
SPA	1611	St Johns Community Centre, St Johns Church, St Johns Road, B68 9RP	No change	
SPB	1418	St Johns Community Centre, St Johns Church, St Johns Road, B68 9RP	No change	
SPC	602	New Hope Christian Centre, Woodland Drive, Smethwick, B66 1JF	No change	
SPD	1329	North Smethwick Resource Centre, Cambridge Road, B66 2HR	No change	
SPE	1507	Brasshouse Community Centre, Brasshouse Lane, B66 1BA	No change	
SPF	2001	West Smethwick Methodist Church Parlour, Holly Lane, B67 7JD	No change	
SPG	2104	The Sons of Rest Building, West Smethwick Park, West Park Road, B67 7JJ	No change	

## Appendix 1

### Tipton and Wednesbury Constituency

#### Coseley East Ward

District(s)	Elector Count	Polling Place	Proposed Change	Comments
B01	1388	Darkhouse Baptist Church, Darkhouse Lane, WV14 8XH	No change	
B02	856	Summerhill Community Centre, 28B Summerhill Road, WV14 8RD	No change	
B03, B04	966	Wallbrook Primary Academy, Bradleys Lane, WV14 8YP	No change	
B04, B06	1957	Roseville Methodist Church Hall, Bayer Street, WV14 9DS	No change	
B05	1061	Darkhouse Baptist Church, Darkhouse Lane, WV14 8XH	No change	
B07	937	Activity Centre, Silver Jubilee Park, Mason Street, WV14 9SZ	No change	
B08, B09	2097	Upper Ettingshall Methodist Church, Upper Ettingshall Road, WV14 9QU	No change	

## Appendix 1

### Friar Park Ward

District(s)	Elector Count	Polling Place	Proposed Change	Comments
FPA	1924	Woods Methodist Church, Coronation Road, Wednesbury, WS10 0TT	No change	
FPA	1298	Woods Methodist Church, Coronation Road, Wednesbury, WS10 0TT	No change	
FPB	1468	St Francis of Assisi Church, Freeman Road, Friar Park, WS10 0HJ	No change	
FPB	1425	St Francis of Assisi Church, Freeman Road, Friar Park, WS10 0HJ	No change	
FPC	1116	Tameside Primary Academy, Entrance From, Price Road, WS10 0EZ	Open Heaven Church, Price Road	No issues with using Tameside Primary but the change would mean one less school closure. The church is a 3 minute walk from the school and is a suitable building for use as a polling place.
FPD	1585	St Luke`s Church and Centre, Elwell Street, WS10 0QD	No change	

## Appendix 1

### Great Bridge Ward

District(s)	Elector Count	Polling Place	Proposed Change	Comments
GBA	2049	Jubilee Park Community Centre, Jubilee Park, Powis Avenue, DY4 0RJ	No change	
GBA	1334	Jubilee Park Community Centre, Jubilee Park, Powis Avenue, DY4 0RJ	No change	
GBB	2427	New Road Methodist Church, Mount Street, Great Bridge, DY4 7DE	No change	
GBC	1958	Great Bridge Library & Children's Centre, Sheepwash Lane, Tipton, DY4 7JF	No change	
GBD	2041	New Testament Church of God, Horseley Heath, DY4 7QT	No change	

### Hateley Heath Ward

District(s)	Elector Count	Polling Place	Proposed Change	Comments
HHA	1302	St John Bosco School, Monmouth Drive, West Bromwich, B71 2ST	No change	
HHB, HHD	1854	Hall Green Primary School, Westminster Road, B71 2JQ	No change	
HHC	701	Temporary Hut, Car Park, Holy Cross R.C., Hall Green Road, B71 3LA	No change	
HHE	848	Hope Church, Marsh Lane, B71 2DR	No change	
HHF	1767	West Bromwich Community Centre, Gayton Road, B71 1QS	No change	
HHG	2527	Little Gaters Building, Hargate Primary School, Tantany Lane/Law Street Entrance, B71 1PG	No change	
HHH	1248	Hateley Heath Primary School, Huntingdon Road, B71 2RP	No change	

## Appendix 1

### Princes End Ward

District(s)	Elector Count	Polling Place	Proposed Change	Comments
PEA	2168	William Perry Boxing Club, High Street, DY4 9JB	No change	
PEB	2174	Tipton Sports Academy Social Club, Wednesbury Oak Road, Tipton, DY4 0BS	No change	
PEC, PED	1698	St Mark's Church Hall, Ocker Hill Road, DY4 0UT	No change	
PEE	1727	Glebefields Library, St. Mark`s Road, Tipton, DY4 0SZ	No change	
PEF, PEG	1647	St John the Evangelist Church Hall, Upper Church Lane, DY4 9ND	No change	



## Appendix 1

### Tipton Green Ward

District(s)	Elector Count	Polling Place	Proposed Change	Comments
TGA	1113	Grace Community Church, Newhall Street, Tipton, DY4 9HL	No change	
TGB	1068	The Nursery, St Paul's Academy, Robert Road, DY4 9BH	No change	
TGC	1728	The Nursery Room, St. Martin`s Church of England Primary School, Lower Church Lane, DY4 7PG	No change	
TGD	2453	Church of Sacred Heart & Holy Souls, (Church Hall), 31 Victoria Road, DY4 8SN	No change	Cllr Khatun suggested moving to the Carnegie Building which is also on Victoria Road and is council owned. However, the Carnegie Building is not yet open to the public and this is not planned until Spring 2024. There would be a significant risk to the May 2024 elections if the opening of the Carnegie Building was delayed in any way. Therefore, it has been agreed that this will be looked at again as part of the 2024/25 Local Government Boundary Review.
TGE	1992	Tipton Christian Church, Waterloo Street, Tipton, DY4 8NR	No change	
TGF	2326	Church Hall Rear of St. Matthew`s Church, Dudley Road, DY4 8DJ	No change	

## Appendix 1

### Wednesbury North Ward

District(s)	Elector Count	Polling Place	Proposed Change	Comments
WNA	1028	Temporary Hut , Cemetery, Beebee Road, WS10 9RY	No change	
WNB	1955	Albert Pritchard Infant School, Coleman Road & Crew Road Entrances, WS10 9QG	No change	
WNC	2210	St Bartholomew's Church Hall, Church Hill, WS10 9DJ	No change	
WND	1559	Wood Green Junior School, Hobs Road, WS10 9BW	No change	
WND	1291	Wood Green Junior School, Hobs Road, WS10 9BW	No change	
WNE	1201	Wednesbury Leisure Centre, High Bullen, WS10 7HP	No change	

### Wednesbury South Ward

District(s)	Elector Count	Polling Place	Proposed Change	Comments
WSA, WSB	1689	Leabrook Methodist Church Hall, (entrance Bannister Road), Leabrook Road, WS10 7LY	No change	
WSC	1667	Wesley Centre, Central Methodist Church, Springhead, WS10 9AD	No change	
WSD	1252	Little Learners Building, Moorlands Primary School, Winchester Road, B71 2NZ	No change	
WSE	1263	Hill Top Methodist Church, New Street, Hill Top, B70 0HW	No change	
WSE, WSF	1769	Hill Top Methodist Church, New Street, Hill Top, B70 0HW	No change	
WSG	2538	Harvills Hawthorn Primary School, Wolseley Road, West Bromwich, B70 0NG	No change	

## Appendix 1

### West Bromwich Constituency

#### Charlemont with Grove Vale Ward

District(s)	Elector Count	Polling Place	Proposed Change	Comments
CHA	1308	Charlemont Methodist Church, Charlemont Road, West Bromwich, B71 3DU	No change	
CHA, CHF	2338	Connor Education Centre, Connor Road, B71 3DJ	No change	
CHB, CHC	2595	Church of St. Mary Magdalene, Beaconview Road, B71 3PJ	No change	
CHD	1046	Great Barr Hotel, Festival Suite, Pear Tree Drive, B43 6HS	No change	
CHE	1045	Grove Vale Primary School, Monksfield Avenue, B43 6AL	No change	
CHG	1029	West Bromwich Community Centre, Gayton Road, B71 1QS	No change	

## Appendix 1

### Great Barr with Yew Tree Ward

District(s)	Elector Count	Polling Place	Proposed Change	Comments
GYA	1852	Yew Tree & Tame Bridge Community Centre, Redwood Road, WS5 4LB	No change	
GYA	1781	Yew Tree & Tame Bridge Community Centre, Redwood Road, WS5 4LB	No change	
GYB	883	Q3 Academy, Community Entrance, Wilderness Lane, B43 7SD	Merge with GYC – Great Barr War Memorial Hall	Q3 Academy remains open on polling day which means we employ security guards at this site. It is also not the most accessible polling station as it is down a long path. Great Barr War Memorial would be able to comfortably accommodate both polling districts as they both have a relatively low electorate. Cllr Allcock supports this proposal.
GYC	631	Great Barr War Memorial Hall, Corner of Chapel Lane &, Birmingham Road, B43 7BD	No change	
GYD, GYE	1829	Great Barr Library, (car park entrance Readers Walk), Birmingham Road, B43 6NW	No change	
GYF	878	Holy Name R.C. Parish Centre, Birmingham Road, Great Barr, B43 6LN	No change	
GYG	1935	Temporary Hut, Woodruff Way, Walsall, WS5 4RR	No change	

## Appendix 1

### Greets Green and Lyng Ward

District(s)	Elector Count	Polling Place	Proposed Change	Comments
GGA	2189	Ryders Green Primary School, Claypit Lane, B70 9UJ	No change	
GGB	1645	Wood Lane Community Centre, 157 Wood Lane, (Corner of Claypit Lane), B70 9PT	No change	
GGC	1656	Lodge Road Community Centre, Lodge Road, B70 8PJ	No change	
GGD, GGE	1976	Good Shepherd with St. John Church, Lyttleton Street, (Corner of Bromford Lane), B70 7SB	No change	
GGF	1202	Good Shepherd with St. John Church, Lyttleton Street, (Corner of Bromford Lane), B70 7SB	No change	
GGG	820	Farley Park Lodge Community Centre, Whitehall Road, B70 0HF	No change	

### Newton Ward

District(s)	Elector Count	Polling Place	Proposed Change	Comments
NEA	2099	St Bernard's Church, Broome Avenue, Great Barr, B43 5AL	No change	
NEB	1012	Temporary Hut, Meadowside Close, Great Barr, B43 6BP	No change	
NEC	1976	Ferndale Primary School, (Entrance via Eastwood Road), B43 5RR	No change	
NED	1109	Community Room Hamstead House, Coniston Crescent, B43 5NU	No change	
NEE	2462	Tanhouse Community Centre, Hamstead Road, B43 5EL	No change	

## Appendix 1

### Oldbury Ward

District(s)	Elector Count	Polling Place	Proposed Change	Comments
OLA	2255	Methodist Centre Dudley Port, Entrance From Tividale Street, DY4 7SB	No change	
OLB	2050	Balaji Temple, 101 Dudley Road East, Tividale, B69 3DU	No change	
OLC	1126	Balaji Temple, 101 Dudley Road East, Tividale, B69 3DU	No change	
OLD	1821	Kingdom Life Apostolic Chapel, Birmingham Street, Oldbury, B69 4DY	No change	
OLE	1513	Balaji Temple, 101 Dudley Road East, Tividale, B69 3DU	No change	
OLF	1436	St Michael the Archangel, Tividale Road, Tividale, B69 2LQ	No change	

## Appendix 1

### Rowley Ward

District(s)	Elector Count	Polling Place	Proposed Change	Comments
ROA	943	Rowley Regis Sure Start Centre, Dudley Road, B65 8JY	No change	
ROB	1862	Rowley Regis Sure Start Centre, Dudley Road, B65 8JY	No change	
ROC	1671	Rowley Hall Primary School, Windsor Road, B65 9HU	No change	
ROD	1060	Temporary Hut, Blue Stone Walk/, Portway Hill, B65 9DE	No change	
ROE	1048	Rowley Regis Disability Centre, Rowley Village, B65 9AT	No change	
ROF	1817	Brickhouse Community Centre, Dudhill Road, B65 8HS	No change	
ROG	1417	St James' W.R. Church, Highgate Street, Old Hill, B64 5SA	No change	

## Appendix 1

### Tividale Ward

District(s)	Elector Count	Polling Place	Proposed Change	Comments
TIA	1296	Oakham Evangelical Church, City Road, Tividale, B69 1QZ	No change	
TIB	1547	Tividale FC Sports Bar, Packwood Road, Tividale, B69 1UL	No change	Cllr Crompton proposed moving back to Tividale Hall Primary School as she believes turnout has decreased since Tividale FC has been used. The school have now set their inset days for next year and so to use them for May 2024 would mean them having to close for an extra day. We will explore this move again as part of the Local Government Boundary Review in 2024/25.
TIB	1520	Tividale FC Sports Bar, Packwood Road, Tividale, B69 1UL	No change	As above.
TIC	1651	Oakham Library, Poplar Rise, B69 1RD	No change	
TID	1757	Oakham Evangelical Church, City Road, Tividale, B69 1QZ	No change	
TIE	1417	Portway Lifestyle Centre, Newbury Lane, Oldbury, B69 1HE	No change	



## Appendix 1

### West Bromwich Central Ward

District(s)	Elector Count	Polling Place	Proposed Change	Comments
WBA	2547	Hallam Street Methodist Church, Community Room, Lewisham Street, B71 4HG	No change	
WBB	1615	The Mecure Birmingham West, Birmingham Road, (Access Europa Avenue), B70 6TU	Beeches Road Methodist Church, Beeches Road, West Bromwich	Numerous issues with the booking of The Mercure in May 2023. They changed the room to be used last minute without telling us, the room they gave us was too small. We explored using the National Metalforming Centre, however this would incur a significant cost and the NMC appeared reluctant to be used. Beeches Road Methodist Church welcome the use as a polling place and is only a 6 minute walk from The Mercure.
WBC	1394	Holy Trinity Church Hall, Mary Road, B70 6LF	No change	
WBD	749	Kenrick Park Community Centre, Rear Entrance, 70 Glover Street, B70 6DU	No change	
WBE	435	Kuumba Centre, Boulton Road, B70 6NW	Merge with WBD and both vote at Kenrick Park Community Centre	This polling district has a very small electorate and so Kenrick Park

## Appendix 1

District(s)	Elector Count	Polling Place	Proposed Change	Comments
				Community Centre could comfortably accommodate the electorate for both polling districts. Cllr Preece supports this proposal.
WBF	1000	St Philips Church, Beeches Road, West Bromwich, B70 6JA	No change	
WBG	1751	West Bromwich Town Hall, High Street, Entrance From Lodge Rd, B70 8DT	No change	
WBH	787	Greets Green Access Centre, Tildasley Street, B70 9SJ	No change	

## Appendix 2

### Proposals for changes to polling places for Parliamentary Elections only – Smethwick Constituency

#### **Blackheath Ward** (BLG falls in the Halesowen Borough Constituency which is administered by the Dudley A(RO))

District(s)	Elector Count	Polling Place	Proposed Change	Comments
BLF, BLG	1405	Highfields Primary School, Beeches Road, B65 0DA	Move BLG to Good Shepherd Hall, Beeches Road. BLF to remain at Highfields Primary School	<b>For Parliamentary elections only:</b> BLG falls under Halesowen Borough Constituency. If both were to remain at Highfields Primary there is a risk of cross contamination of the two different ballot papers.
BLH	825	Temple Meadow Primary School, Wrights Lane, B64 6RH	BLH to go to Highfields Primary School along with BLF	<b>For Parliamentary elections only:</b> This is a double station with CRF which falls under Halesowen Borough Constituency. If both were to remain at Temple Meadow Primary, there would be a risk of cross contamination of the two different ballot papers.

### Appendix 3 - Responses to the Polling District and Polling Places Review

#### Smethwick Constituency

<b>Ward/Polling District</b>	<b>Polling Place</b>	<b>Respondent</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Abbey Ward ABD	Bearwood Baptist Church, Bearwood Road, Smethwick, B66 4HA	Rev Rod MacRorie	Happy with current polling place. No suggestions for alternatives.
Bristnall Ward BRB & BRC	Langley Swimming Centre, Vicarage Road, B68 8HS	Cllr Ellen Fenton	Suggested an alternative venue of The Pavilion at Barnford Park instead of Sandwell Aquatic Centre
Smethwick Ward SMA & SMB	Temporary Hut, Your Vets, 300 Londonderry Lane, B67 7EW	Cllr Parbinder Kaur	Supportive of move from the Temporary Hut, Your Vets to Sandwell Aquatic Centre
Smethwick Ward SMA&SMB	Temporary Hut, Your Vets, 300 Londonderry Lane, B67 7EW	Cllr Ashley Lewis	Supportive of move from the Temporary Hut, Your Vets to Sandwell Aquatic Centre
Soho & Victoria Ward SVG	Hadley Stadium, Entrance Waterloo Road, Smethwick, B66 4NL	Cllr Ragih Muflihi	Supportive of move from the annex building on Waterloo Road to a room within the main building of Hadley Stadium as long as external lighting from Waterloo Road to the main building is in place.

### Appendix 3 - Responses to the Polling District and Polling Places Review

#### West Bromwich Constituency    Tipton Green and Wednesbury Constituency

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<b>Ward/Polling District</b>	<b>Polling Place</b>	<b>Respondent</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Great Barr with Yew Tree GYB	Q3 Academy, Community Entrance, Wilderness Lane, B43 7SD	Cllr Michaela Allcock	Supportive of moving GYB to Great Barr War Memorial Hall and having both GYB and GYC polling districts at the War Memorial Hall
Tividale TIB	Tividale FC Sports Bar, Packwood Road, Tividale, B69 1UL	Cllr Maria Crompton	Suggested moving from the Sports Bar back to Tividale Hall Primary School as she believes turnout has decreased at this polling place since the polling station was moved to Tividale FC Sports Bar.
West Bromwich Central WBB	The Mecure Birmingham West, Birmingham Road, (Access Europa Avenue), B70 6TU	Cllr Liam Preece	Supportive of the move away from The Mercure to either the National Metalforming Centre or Beeches Road Methodist Church.
West Bromwich Central WBE	Kuumba Centre, Boulton Road, B70 6NW	Cllr Liam Preece	Supportive of not using Kuumba Centre again and moving WBE district to merge with WBD at Kenrick Park Community Centre

<b>Ward/Polling District</b>	<b>Polling Place</b>	<b>Respondent</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Tipton Green TGD	Church of Sacred Heart & Holy Souls, (Church Hall), 31 Victoria Road, DY4 8SN	Cllr Syeda Khatun	Suggested moving TGD to Carnegie Building, Victoria Road. The Carnegie Building is council owned and so this move could be a way of saving on costs of hiring the polling place.

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