

# Agenda

## General Purposes and Arbitration Committee

**Monday 4 March 2024 at 6.00 pm**  
**in Committee Room 1 - Sandwell Council House, Oldbury**

- |          |   |                |
|----------|---|----------------|
| <b>1</b> | <b>Apologies for Absence</b>  | <b>5 - 6</b>   |
|          | To receive any apologies for absence.   |                |
| <b>2</b> | <b>Declarations of Interest</b>   | <b>7 - 8</b>   |
|          | Members to declare any interests in matters to be discussed at the meeting.   |                |
| <b>3</b> | <b>Minutes</b>  | <b>9 - 34</b>  |
|          | To confirm the minutes of the meetings held on 4 December 2023 as a correct record.   |                |
| <b>4</b> | <b>Additional Items of Business</b>   |                |
|          | To determine whether there are any additional items of business arising which should be considered at the meeting as a matter of urgency. |                |
| <b>5</b> | <b>Leonard Andrews Poole Trust Interim Annual Report 2023/24</b>  | <b>35 - 38</b> |
|          | To consider the Leonard Andrews Poole Trust Interim Annual Report 2023/24.  |                |



- 6      **Request for use of Leonard Andrews Poole Trust funds for the purchase of specialist radios at Fountain Court.**      39 - 44

To consider the request for use of Leonard Andrews Poole Trust funds for the purchase of specialist radios at Fountain Court.

- 7      **Nominations for Honorary Alderman**      45 - 48

To consider the Nominations for Honorary Alderman.

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

**Distribution**  
Councillor Melia (Chair)  
Councillors Dhariwal, M Allcock, Fitzgerald, Johnston, Maycock, Trumpeter and Williams

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## General Purposes and Arbitration Committee

### Apologies for Absence

To receive any apologies for absence from the members of the Committee.



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## General Purposes and Arbitration Committee

### Declarations of Interest

Members to declare any interests in matters to be discussed at the meeting.



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## Minutes of General Purposes and Arbitration Committee

**4 December 2023 at 6.00pm**  
**Sandwell Council House, Sandwell, Oldbury**

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

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

**36/23      Apologies for absence**

There were no apologies for absence.

**37/23      Declarations of Interest**

Members present declared an interest only in so far as they are elected members and the proposals related to changes within their respective wards.

**38/23      Minutes**

**Resolved** that the minutes of the meetings held on 22 September and 12 October 2023 be confirmed as a correct record.

38/23 **Urgent Items of Business**

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

39/23 **Statutory Polling District and Polling Place Review 2023**

The Committee was informed that 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. The last review in Sandwell had been undertaken in 2019.

As a result, the recommendations being considered took 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;
- c) the need to identify an alternative location where an existing polling place was no longer available to use.

The notice of review was published on 2 October 2023 and the consultation period was from 2 October 2023 to 2 November 2023. All elected members, Members of Parliament, local political parties and local disability and community groups were consulted. Seven changes were proposed and these would affect five wards.

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 identified 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 required all polling district boundaries to be reviewed in 2024/25.

To try and minimise voter confusion around where they were able to cast their vote, the intention with this polling district and polling place review was to only change those that were

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

In response to comments and questions from the Committee, it was confirmed that:-

- there would be minimal changes to the existing polling stations to minimise voter confusion
- where polling stations had poor lighting, subject to a more permanent solution being found by the venue, the Elections Team could provide temporary lighting to enhance security and safety;
- where a viable alternative was available, schools would not be used to ensure little disruption to them and aid child welfare by keep voters and children separate.

**Resolved** that Council be recommended:

- (1) to approve the proposed changes to polling districts and polling places as set out in Appendix 1 to take effect at all elections from 2 January 2024;
- (2) to approve the proposed changes to polling places as set out in Appendix 2 to take effect at any future Parliamentary General Elections only; and
- (3) that in the event of any or any unforeseen reason and should there be a need to change any further Polling Places or Polling Stations prior to elections in 2024, the Returning Officer be authorised to effect further changes following consultation with relevant Ward Members.

Meeting ended at 6.33pm

Contact: [democratic\\_services@sandwell.gov.uk](mailto:democratic_services@sandwell.gov.uk)

## Appendix 1

### 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	

**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	

## 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	

## 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	

## 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	



## 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	

## Soho &amp; 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>

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	

## 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	

## 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	

## 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	

## 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	

## 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	



## 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	

## 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	

## 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	

## 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	

## 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	

## 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	

## 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	

## 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



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.

## Report to General Purposes and Arbitration Committee

**4 March 2024**

<b>Subject:</b>	Leonard Andrews Poole Trust Interim Annual Report 2023/24
<b>Director:</b>	Director of Adult Social Care Rashpal Bishop
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Business Partner Adult Social Care and Public Health, Susanne Moore <a href="mailto:Susanne_Moore@sandwell.gov.uk">Susanne_Moore@sandwell.gov.uk</a>

### 1 Recommendations




- 1.1 That the Committee considers the Interim Annual Report 2023/24 of the Leonard Andrews Poole Trust;
- 1.2 That the Committee notes the Leonard Andrews Poole Trust Financial Position.

### 2 Reasons for Recommendations

- 2.1 The members of the General Purposes and Arbitration Committee are the legal Trustees of the Leonard Andres Poole Trust.
- 2.2 A minimum of three trustees must approve any expenditure from the Trust.



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

	<p>People live well and age well</p> <p>The Trust aims to promote the wellbeing of the residents of Grafton Lodge care home or any care home, including older people, managed by Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council.</p>
	<p>Strong resilient communities</p> <p>The Trust is registered with the Charities Commission and aims to promote cohesive and supportive communities.</p>
	<p>Quality homes in thriving neighbourhoods</p> <p>Housing and supporting quality neighbourhoods are key ambitions of the Trust.</p>

### 4 Context and Key Issues

- 4.1 The Leonard Andrews Poole Trust is a Trust fund set up in 1979 from a bequest by Leonard Andrews and is registered with the Charities Commission (ref 509166).
- 4.2 The bequest stipulated that the funds could not be spent and must be held in perpetuity; however, any interest arising from the investment can be utilised for the benefit of residence of Grafton Lodge care home or any care home managed by Sandwell MBC.
- 4.3 The Trust holds 7767.32 shares on deposit with COIF Charities Investment Fund managed by CCLA. COIF is a long-term, sustainable investment solution which incorporates environmental, social and governance (ESG) considerations into the investment strategy. COIF is considered suitable for charities looking for a good level of distributions and protection from inflation. The portfolio has a bias towards real assets, predominantly global equities but also property investments and infrastructure.



#### 4.4 Trust Financial Position

	<b>Cash Held in Bank</b>
Opening Balance 1.4.23	31,542.47
Dividends – June	1,050.14
Dividends – September	1,050.14
Dividends – December	1,064.90
Dividends – March	
Bank Interest	
Expenditure	(3,862.50)
Closing Balance 12.2.24	<b>30,845.15</b>

- 4.5 The closing bank balance is available for the benefit of residents of council managed residential style unit of which there are currently two - Harvest View and Fountain Court. Expenditure relates to the purchase of garden furniture at Harvest View for which approval was given in March 2023. Average annual income levels are £4,500 per annum and the annual income yield is forecast to be 5.1% for 2024/25.
- 4.6 The Trust holds 7767.32 shares which had an opening valuation on 1 April 2023 of £145,533.17 and is currently valued at £177,506 an increase of £31,973 during the financial year. Share prices can go up and down and is currently at a high as the next dividend is due shortly.
- 4.7 The managers at Harvest View and Fountain Court have been made aware of the level of funds available and their potential uses and a separate report will be presented.

#### 5 Implications

<b>Resources:</b>	No resource implications
<b>Legal and Governance:</b>	Funds must be held and spent in accordance with the bequest. The bequest conditions have been adhered to during 2023/24.
<b>Risk:</b>	There is always risk associated with investment in shares however this is mitigated by depositing the capital in a fund suitable for charity's who are looking



	for a good level of distributions and long-term protection from inflation. CCLA was founded in 1958 and the COIF investment has been available since 1963 with this investment being made in 1980. Historic analysis provides evidence to support growth in both the capital investment and level of dividend.
<b>Equality:</b>	None in relation to this report
<b>Health and Wellbeing:</b>	Funds are available for the benefit of resident of local authority residential facilities.
<b>Social Value:</b>	Improving the lives of individual within residential care settings or similar
<b>Climate Change:</b>	None in relation to this report.
<b>Corporate Parenting:</b>	None in relation to this report.

## 6 Appendices

None

## 7. Background Papers

None



## Report to General Purposes and Arbitration Committee

**4 March 2024**

<b>Subject:</b>	Request for use of Leonard Andrews Poole Trust funds for the purchase of specialist radios at Fountain Court.
<b>Director:</b>	Director of Adult Social Care Rashpal Bishop
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Operation Head, Jackie Postin <a href="mailto:Jackie_postin@sandwell.gov.uk">Jackie_postin@sandwell.gov.uk</a>

### 1 Recommendations

- 1.1 That the Board considers the request for funds from the Leonard Andrews Poole Trust to provide specialist Dementia radios for the residents at Fountain Court;
- 1.2 That the Board agrees for a procurement exercise to be undertaken to source suitable radios to meet the needs of the residents at Fountain Court.


### 2 Reasons for Recommendations

- 2.1 Fountain Court in Smethwick offers specialist residential care from dedicated social care staff for older adults living with Dementia.
- 2.2 Fountain Court has 16 en-suite bedrooms, two communal lounges leading to a conservatory and landscaped outdoor gardens. The home enables people to live well in the surroundings specifically designed to support people living with the effects of their Dementia.
- 2.3 The purpose of the specialist radios is to offer an enhanced level of wellbeing and entertainment for the residents. The radios are designed with easy to use pre-set stations, removing the distress of losing the



station and listening to white noise. The radios also allow for families or staff to pre-set favourite songs which help people to remember the time or feelings of significant and happy events enabling people to relax and reduce their anxieties.

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

	<p>People live well and age well            People live with the effects of Dementia and Alzheimer’s disease differently every day. Music and dancing is proven to help people living with dementia to relax and enjoy social interaction. Utilising the dementia radios within Fountain Court will enable a more person-centred program of support to be implemented either during activities or as a one to one experience to allow the individual time to talk about their favourite songs, with the security the stations won’t be lost causing anxieties.</p> <p>The radios can also be operated independently by individuals with reduced vision or dexterity due to the simple design and structure supporting people to maintain independence with the system.</p> <p>Using music therapy to support people to reduce their anxieties and minimise distress will also help to reduce the requirements to move to a more medication focussed plan of support, thus retaining the persons overall wellbeing, physical health and sense of self.</p>
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### 4 Context and Key Issues

- 4.1 Consultation has been completed with Edward Street hospital consultants and CPN colleagues, to confirm the type and style of radio required that is likely to meet the needs of the majority of residents. There has been a trial of similar radios within fountain court which has proven extremely successful.
- 4.2 In order to establish an approximate cost, a quote has been obtained from company for; 14 x Specialist radios.
- 4.3 The requested funds to undertake a procurement exercise is £2,000.





## 5 Implications

<b>Resources:</b>	Investment requested from Leonard Andrews Poole Trust funds to purchase the items, quotes indicate this to be around £2,000. The Trust fund currently has £30,845 available to support special amenities for the residents of Fountain Court and Harvest View.
<b>Legal and Governance:</b>	The members of the General Purposes and Arbitration Committee are the legal Trustees of the Leonard Andres Poole Trust. Funds must be held and spent in accordance with the bequest.
<b>Risk:</b>	The radios are low vault battery operated. These will be added to the electrical appliance register held within fountain Court and will be risk assessed, maintained and monitored in accordance with current regulations.
<b>Equality:</b>	The radios can be tuned to stations of preference, including personalised playlists.
<b>Health and Wellbeing:</b>	Increased wellbeing and social interactions. Reduced medical interventions
<b>Social Value:</b>	Procurement exercise to be undertaken, as per the procurement rules this will look to ensure a Sandwell or West Midlands Combined Authority companies are able to quote for this requirement.
<b>Climate Change:</b>	Items sourced will be disposed of according to manufacture instruction
<b>Corporate Parenting:</b>	Not applicable.

## 6 Appendices

Appendix 1 – Example images of possible radio choices

## 7. Background Papers

None.



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Bringing joy to life with dementia



## Bring The Joy Of Music Back Into Your Life! 🎵

We understand how transformative music can be, especially for those living with dementia. It serves as a bridge to cherished memories and offers comfort during challenging times.

What makes it special?





Customisable card labels to save your favourite stations.



Includes UK, USA and EU adapters. Can be mains powered or used with four D batteries.



Simple, high-contrast controls with audio feedback.



Setup interface & USB flash drive hidden behind the battery door.



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## Report to General Purposes and Arbitration Committee

**4 March 2024**

<b>Subject:</b>	Nominations for Honorary Alderman
<b>Director:</b>	James McLaughlin Assistant Chief Executive
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Connor Robinson Democratic Services Officer <a href="mailto:connor1_robinson@sandwell.gov.uk">connor1_robinson@sandwell.gov.uk</a>


### 1 Recommendations

- 1.1 That the Committee considers recommending that Council confer the title of Honorary Alderman upon Mr. Ahmadul Haque.

### 2 Reasons for Recommendations

- 2.1 The Committee is invited to indicate whether it would wish to confirm the title on any person or persons. If the Committee wishes to nominate a suitable person it is recommended that an extraordinary meeting of Council is held on 19 March 2024, prior to the ordinary meeting of Council. The Council will consider this Committee's recommendations and, if appropriate, pass the necessary statutory resolutions required by Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972.

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

	<p>Nominations for Honorary Alderman/Alderwoman are an endorsement of the aspirations, talent and achievements of local people.</p>
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## 4 Context and Key Issues

- 4.1 In order to recognise eminent or notable service rendered to the Borough by former Councillors, in 1997, the Council introduced a scheme for the enrolment of Honorary Alderman of the Borough. This scheme was amended in 2008 to reduce the required number of years' service to twelve and in 2013 to reflect Section 29 of the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 to the effect that any reference to Honorary Alderman should be followed by the insertion of Honorary Alderman/Alderwoman.
- 4.2 The Local Government Act 1972 gave authority to the Council to confer the honour to elected members who had given eminent service to the Borough. Local Authorities define the operation of the scheme within their Council areas.
- 4.3 The Committee is requested to consider a nomination by Councillor Syeda Khatun MBE, to award an honorary title upon Mr. Ahmadul Haque.
- 4.4 Former Councillor Ahmadul Haque served on Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council for 20 years as councillor for Tipton Green Ward.
- 4.5 In accordance with the scheme of enrolment, Mr. Ahmadul Haque has indicated his willingness to accept the nomination for enrolment as Honorary Alderman.
- 4.6 If the Committee is minded to support the nomination, the Committee's recommendation will be submitted for consideration at an Extraordinary Council meeting, immediately prior to the ordinary meeting of Full Council, scheduled to be held on the same day.

## 5 Implications

<b>Resources:</b>	Local Authorities are empowered to incur reasonable expenditure on the provision of an address or casket on the conferment of the title of Honorary Alderman or Honorary Alderwoman. It is the practice of this Authority to present a Badge of Office and a commemorative scroll to the Alderman and Alderwoman, the cost of which is met from the civic ceremonial budget.
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<b>Legal and Governance:</b>	The authority to confer the title of Honorary Alderman and the power to incur expenditure is contained within Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972, as now amended by Section 29 of the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.
<b>Risk:</b>	There are no risk implications arising directly from this report.
<b>Equality:</b>	There are no equality implications arising directly from this report.
<b>Health and Wellbeing:</b>	There are no health and wellbeing implications arising directly from this report.
<b>Social Value</b>	Nominations for Honorary Alderman/Alderwomen are an endorsement of the aspirations, talent and achievements of local people.
<b>Climate Change</b>	There are no climate change implications arising directly from this report.
<b>Corporate Parenting</b>	There are no corporate parenting implications arising directly from this report.

## 6 Appendices



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