

Minutes of Council

**Tuesday 12 December 2023 at 6.03pm
at Sandwell Council House, Oldbury**

Present: His Worshipful The Mayor, Councillor Gavan (Chair);
Deputy Mayor, Councillor E M Giles;

Councillors Abrahams, Akpoteni, K Allcock, M Allcock, Ashraf, Bhullar, Carmichael, Chambers, Chapman, Chidley, Crompton, Davies, Dhariwal, Dhatt, Fenton, Fisher, Fitzgerald, E M Giles, J Giles, L Giles, S Gill, W Gill, Hackett, Hartwell, Hughes, Hussain, Jalil, Johnston, Kalebe-Nyamongo, Kaur, Khan, Khatun, Kordala, Loan, Maycock, Melia, Millar, Moore, Muflihi, Owen, Padda, Pall, Piper, Preece, Rahman, Randhawa, J Singh, N Singh, Taylor, Tipper, Tromans, Trumpeter, Uddin, Uppal, Webb, Weston, Wilkes and Younis.

Officers: Shokat Lal – Chief Executive; Mike Jones – Assistant Director Legal and Assurance and Monitoring Officer; Suky Suthi-Nagra – Democratic Services Manager; Trisha Newton – Deputy Democratic Services Manager; Anthony Lloyd – Democratic Services Officer; Kennedy Brown – Sergeant at Arms.

129/23 **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Anandou, Dunn, Hinchliff, Lewis, Mayo, Millard, Rollins, Shaeen, Smith and Williams.



130/23 **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

131/23 **Minutes**

Resolved that the minutes of the extraordinary and ordinary meetings of Council held on 24 October 2023 are approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

132/23 **Urgent Business**

There were no urgent additional items of business to consider.

133/23 **Announcements**

The Mayor gave details of Mayoral and Deputy Mayoral engagements that had taken place.

The Chief Executive welcomed Mike Jones as the new Monitoring Officer.

The Chief Executive welcomed and congratulated Joshua Singh following his accomplishment of winning the National Young Planner of the year 2023 award.

The Chief Executive announced that the Sandwell Transition Education Partnership Service (STEPS) and Youth Service, along with partners, had walked away with two wins in their respective categories at the November Children and Young People Now Awards 2023. STEPS had become the first winner of Children and



Young People Now - New Supporting Child Refugees Award. Colleagues had also won the Partnership Working Award for their work on Sandwell County Lines Intensification Week led by Sandwell Children's Trust's Horizons Exploitation and Missing Team.

The Mayor gave details on the Anchor Network Partnerships Charter. The Partnership was facilitated by the Council, comprising local anchor organisations” who had an importance presence in Sandwell due to being largescale employers and purchases of goods and servicesBy signing the Sandwell Anchor Network Partnership Charter, the Council would lead the way by example. The Cabinet Member for Regeneration and WMCA also commented on the network before signing the Charter.

134/23 **Petitions**

No petitions were received under Standing Order No. 8.

135/23 **Written Questions**

Questions received under Standing Order No. 9. were asked of the relevant members and responses were received.

136/23 **Designation of Interim Statutory Chief Officer**

Brendan Arnold was appointed to the role of Interim Finance Director in September 2023 under delegated powers. The interim designation as Chief Officer/Section 151 Officer required confirmation from Full Council. The Council had a statutory



obligation to designate an individual as Section 151 Officer as required by s.151 of the Local Government Act 1972.

Resolved that Brendan Arnold, the Council's Interim Finance Director, is designated as the Council's Section 151 Officer/Chief Finance Officer.

137/23 Sandwell Council Improvement Plan

On 22 March 2022, the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities announced an intervention package and a set of Directions to ensure the Council was able to comply with its best value duty under Part 1 of the Local Government Act 1999. These Directions were in-part influenced by the Grant Thornton report following their Value for Money Governance Review of December 2021. A single Improvement Plan was agreed by Council on 7 June 2022.

Under the Statutory Directions, the Council was required to report progress against the Improvement Plan to the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities every six-months following approval of the Plan. The first report was submitted in December 2022 and the second report had been submitted in June 2023. The next report for submission was due in December 2023.

The Leader outlined the progress that had been made in delivering the actions contained within the Improvement Plan and provided an update on Cabinet's recommendation to Council.

Resolved that the Improvement Plan Progress Reports and an accompanying letter are submitted to the Secretary of State for Levelling up, Housing and Communities to form the Council's six-monthly update on progress against the Improvement Plan.



Code of Corporate Governance

The Council was responsible for ensuring that its business was conducted in accordance with the law and proper standards, that public money was safeguarded, properly accounted for and used efficiently and effectively and that robust governance arrangements were in place. The Council had adopted the Local Code of Corporate Governance as a mechanism to demonstrate that the Council's governance structures complied with the principles contained in the framework.

As part of its commitment to ensuring that the governance infrastructure remained appropriate, the Council undertook a review of its arrangements and updated the Code accordingly.

The Audit and Risk Assurance Committee had considered the refreshed Code of Corporate Governance at its meeting on 23 November 2023 and recommended the matter to Full Council for approval.

Resolved that the updated Code of Corporate Governance is approved.



Consideration of Special Responsibility Allowance for Shadow Cabinet Members

The Council was required by the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 to undertake periodic reviews of its Scheme of Members' Allowances.

In 2022, the Independent Remuneration Panel met with members to seek views on the introduction and operation of a shadow cabinet member role and considered benchmarking data. The Panel subsequently recommended to Council on 23 May 2023 that the issue of formally recognising a shadow cabinet was a matter for Council and should the Council wish to progress this issue, it would be the Panel's recommendation that the roles should be afforded an allowance equivalent to 10% of the Leaders allowance. The Governance and Constitution Committee met on 21 September 2023 and set up a working group to consider a Shadow Cabinet protocol. The protocol was subsequently approved by the Chair of the Committee in October 2023 and was considered and approved by Council on 24 October 2023.

The Independent Remuneration Panel met on 6 November 2023 to consider whether any SRA should be applied to the shadow cabinet member roles. The Panel considered the Shadow Cabinet Protocol which provided clarity on the role of shadow cabinet members; benchmarking data of other local authorities which identified whether other local authorities had a shadow cabinet and whether there was an allowance attached to the role. The Panel was of the view that a Special Responsibility Allowance should be payable to Shadow Cabinet Members, to be set at 10% of the Leader's Allowance (i.e. £2,858.40), where the size of the majority opposition group remains at 5% and above of the size of the controlling group.



Councillor Piper moved the following amendment to the Motion, seconded by Councillor Carmichael:-

“Full Council notes and endorses the principles set out in the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel in relation to the payment of a Special Responsibility Allowance (SRA) to members of a Shadow Cabinet drawn from the largest qualifying opposition group only, subject to the threshold for payment being set at 15% of the overall Council size, giving a current threshold of 11”

The amendment was accepted, the amended motion was put to the vote and it was **Resolved** that a Special Responsibility Allowance of 10% of the Leader’s Allowance is approved for Shadow Cabinet Members, providing the size of the largest opposition group membership equates to at least 15% of the membership size of the controlling political group on the Council.

140/23

Proposed Departure from the Development Plan at West Midlands Foundry Co Limited, Blakemore Road, West Bromwich

Planning Committee had granted conditional approval at its meeting held on the 25 October 2023 in relation to DC/23/68467 (proposed 2 No. portal framed buildings to house 7 No. small units for general industrial/storage and distribution use with associated vehicle access, substation, sliding front gates, parking and covered cycle shelter) at West Midlands Foundry Co Limited, Blakemore Road, West Bromwich.

The site was initially a residential allocation and the proposed development would infill a vacant yard within an existing industrial estate. It was necessary for the Council to consider whether or not



to grant an exception to adopted policy to allow the application to proceed.

Resolved that approval is given to an exception to the Development Plan in respect of planning application DC/23/68467 (proposed 2 No. portal framed buildings to house 7 No. small units for general industrial/storage and distribution use with associated vehicle access, substation, sliding front gates, parking and covered cycle shelter) – West Midlands Foundry Co Limited, Blakemore Road, West Bromwich.

141/23 **Proposed departure from the Development Plan at Locarno Works, Locarno Road, Tipton**

Planning Committee had granted conditional approval at its meeting held on the 29 November 2023, which considered planning application DC/23/68518 (Retention of light industrial and storage use, vehicular access, car and vehicle parking, lighting and CCTV).

The site was currently a residential allocation and the proposed development would make use of a yard within an existing industrial estate. It was necessary for the Council to consider whether or not to grant an exception to adopted policy to allow the application to proceed.

Resolved that approval is given to an exception to the Development Plan in respect of planning application DC/23/68518 (Retention of light industrial and storage use, vehicular access, car and vehicle parking, lighting and CCTV) at Locarno Works, Locarno Road, Tipton.



142/23

Proposed departure from the Development Plan at Tata Cargo Ltd, Rigby Street, Wednesbury, WS10 0NP

Planning Committee had granted conditional approval at its meeting held on 25 October 2023, which considered planning application DC/22/67520 which sought approval for the retention of heavy goods lorry and trailer parking area with portable office at the site of Tata Cargo Ltd in Wednesbury.

The site was currently allocated for housing under the Site Allocations and Delivery Development Plan Policies Map. It was necessary for the Council to consider whether or not to grant an exception to adopted policy to allow the application to proceed.

Resolved that approval is given to an exception to the Development Plan in respect of planning application DC/22/67520 - Retention of heavy goods lorry and trailer parking area with portable office at the site of Tata Cargo Ltd, Rigby Street, Wednesbury, WS10 0NP.



Proposed departure from the Development Plan at land at the corner of Cleton Street and Sedgley Road East/Tipton Road, Tipton

Planning Committee had granted conditional approval at its meeting held on 29th November 2023, which considered planning application DC/23/68624 which sought approval for 2 no. detached light industrial units with new access, parking, landscaping and new retaining wall with railings to rear.

The site was currently allocated for housing under the Site Allocations and Delivery Development Plan Policies Map. It was necessary for the Council to consider whether or not to grant an exception to adopted policy to allow the application to proceed.

Resolved that approval is given to an exception to the Development Plan in respect of planning application DC/23/68624 - Proposed 2 No. detached light industrial units with new access, parking, landscaping and new retaining wall with railings to rear at land at corner of Cleton Street and Sedgley Road East/Tipton Road, Tipton.



144/23 Planning Delegations Agreement

The Council's planning delegations agreement was last reviewed in 2012. The purpose of the planning delegations agreement was to ensure that planning applications are determined in an open and transparent manner.

Local planning authorities were closely monitored by the Government regarding the time taken to determine planning applications. The revised planning delegations agreement had been updated to align with new legislation and Council structure, clarify the reasons for reporting a planning application to the Planning Committee and to remove the need to report certain planning applications to the Committee that were not controversial.

Resolved that the revised planning delegations agreement is approved.

145/23 Political Balance of Committees and Boards

Council considered the political balance of the committees, boards and other fora for the remainder of the 2023-2024 municipal year.

Resolved that the political balance of the committees, boards and other fora for the remainder of 2023-24 be approved.



146/23 **Revisions to Committees, Boards and Other Bodies**

Council considered revisions to the appointments to committees, boards and other bodies.

Resolved that the revisions to appointments to committees, boards and other bodies, as set out in Appendix A, is approved with immediate effect.

147/23 **To receive the minutes of Cabinet**

The minutes of the meetings of the Cabinet held on 18 October and 15 November 2023 were received.

147/23(a) **Medium Term Financial Strategy – Autumn 2023**

The Local Government Finance Act 1992 required the Council to set a balanced, risk assessed budget each year and approve a Council Tax precept by 11 March.

The current position of the medium-term financial strategy sought approval to commence consultation on a range of potential savings options to support the Council in setting a balanced budget in February 2024.

Resolved that the Autumn 2023 update of the Medium-Term Financial Strategy Update is approved.



147/23(b) Council Tax Base 2024/2025

The Council Tax Base was an assessment required by each billing authority to determine the number of chargeable dwellings, converted to Band D equivalents (the average band), allowing for discounts, exemptions, non-collection and new properties. This information would later be used when setting the Council's budget.

The Council Tax Base was calculated in accordance with the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) (England) Regulations 2012 and used to determine the annual amount of collectable Council Tax.

Resolved that:

- (1) the Council Tax Base of 78,217,27 for 2024/2025 is approved;
- (2) in accordance with (1) above, the Section 151 Officer is authorised to adjust the Council Tax base as required.

147/23(c) Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme 2024/2025

The Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme provided crucial support to low income families and vulnerable residents. Sandwell Council was one of only a few nationally that still provided 100% support towards Council tax.

Resolved that the Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme for 2024/25 is approved.



147/23(d) **The review of council tenant rents and housing related property charges**

The Council had to achieve the right balance between supporting tenants to mitigate the continued cost of living pressures and protecting the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) to ensure that it could continue to provide affordable social housing for residents.

There was a recognition that the council needed to maintain the existing housing stock to a good standard and cover operational costs and to achieve the right balance between protecting tenants, protecting tax payers and ensuring that the council could deliver on its commitments to build new social homes.

For 2024/25, the government had not announced a rent cap, therefore the council was permitted to increase rents by CPI+1% in line with the Rent Standard and Policy Statement on Rents for Social Housing issued annually in April.

Resolved that the Interim Director of Housing is authorised to adjust council rents and housing related charges with effect from 1 April 2024 as follows:

- (1) that the housing rental charges is increased by 7.7% which is the consumer price index 6.7% (September 2023) plus 1%, which is equivalent to a 7.7% increase;
- (2) that the housing service charges increase by the consumer price index (CPI)+ 1%, equivalent to a 7.7% increase;
- (3) that housing service charge is implemented on properties not currently being charged but are receiving the service in line with similar properties receiving the



service provision, including heating, water and laundry facility following consultation with residents;

- (4) that subject to consultation with the residents of the site, to increase rent at the traveller's pitch in Hills View, Tipton by 7.7%;
- (5) that properties managed by Riverside under the Private Finance Initiative (PFI) agreement receive a 7.7% rental increase and a 7.7% increase in service charges to match the council's rent and service charge increase;
- (6) that properties that sit outside the Housing Revenue Account (including service tenants for Parks, Sandwell Valley and Caretaking) receive a 7.7% increase in rental charges and service charges equivalent to CPI plus 1%;
- (7) that the leaseholder annual management fee is increased by 7.7%, CPI + 1% in 2024/25 from £115.66 to £124.57;
- (8) that the Director of Housing is authorised to implement adjustments to council rents and housing related charges as set out in this report with effect from 1 April 2024; and
- (9) that the Director of Housing is authorised to introduce associated service charges in respect of Building Safety Regulation requirements for Leasehold properties.



147/23(e) 10 Year Business Rates Retention Agreement

Proposals were made for a new agreement with the Department for Levelling Up, Homes and Communities (DLUHC) which allowed the seven West Midlands metropolitan local authorities to retain 100% of their business rates income for the ten years from 2024/25, with a share payable each year to the West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) (and 1% payable to the West Midlands Fire and Rescue Authority).

The agreement was in accordance with the “West Midlands Trailblazer Deeper Devolution Deal”, which was set out in a paper to Cabinet on 13th September 2023. Cabinet resolved to approve the Deeper Devolution Deal, as set out in the report, and resolved that further reports would be received by Cabinet on specific issues relating to the detail of the Deeper Devolution Deal.

Resolved that:

- (1) approval is granted for the Council to enter into a 10-year business rates retention arrangement with the Department for Levelling Up, Homes and Communities (DLUHC), the West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) and the six other West Midlands metropolitan local authorities;
- (2) the Director of Finance, in consultation with the Monitoring Officer, is authorised to complete any necessary agreements for the retention arrangement referred to in (1) above;
- (3) the Director of Finance is authorised to make an annual payment to the West Midlands Combined Authority of £1.264m in 2023/24, which constitutes the Council’s



proportion of the “WMCA Share” of regional business rates income collected in the current year under the existing 100% business rates retention pilot arrangements and;

- (4) subject to approval of recommendation 1.1, the Director of Finance is authorised to make an annual payment to the West Midlands Combined Authority in each year throughout the 10-year period commencing on 1st April 2024, comprising of the Council’s proportion of the “WMCA Share” of regional business rates income collected in that year.

148/23 To receive the minutes of the Budget and Corporate Scrutiny Management Board

The minutes of the meeting of the Budget and Corporate Scrutiny Management Board held on 28 September 2023 and 5 October 2023 were received.

149/23 To receive the minutes of the General Purposes and Arbitration Committee

The minutes of the meetings of the General Purposes and Arbitration Committee held on 3 August 2023, 22 September 2023 and 12 October 2023 were received.



149/23(a) Statutory Polling District and Polling Place Review 2023

On 4 December 2023, the General Purposes and Arbitration Committee received a report on the Statutory Polling District and Polling Place Review 2023.

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. The review focused polling stations that required 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.

Resolved that:-

- (1) the proposed changes to polling districts and polling places, as set out in Appendix B, are approved to take effect at all elections from 2 January 2024;
- (2) The proposed changes to polling places, as set out in Appendix C, are approved to take effect at any future Parliamentary General Elections only; and
- (3) 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 is authorised to effect further changes following consultation with relevant Ward Members.



150/23 **To receive the minutes of the Audit and Risk Assurance Committee**

The minutes of the meeting of the Audit and Risk Assurance Committee held on 21 September 2023 were received.

151/23 **To receive the minutes of the Ethical Standards and Member Development Committee**

The minutes of the meeting of the Ethical Standards and Member Development Committee held on 7 November 2023 were received.

152/23 **Notices of Motion**

The Council proceeded to consider the following motions received under Standing Order No. 12.

152/23(a) **Modern Slavery**

The motion on Modern Slavery was withdrawn.



152/23(b) End Violence Against Women and Girls (White Ribbon Day)

It was moved by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor Fisher:-

“Council acknowledges the concerns of women and girls regarding their safety on public transport particularly whilst engaging in the night-time economy and welcomes the work done by local community organisations to raise awareness of violence against women and girls.

Council notes and welcomes the Protection from Sex-based Harassment in Public Bill 2022-23 which introduces a new offence of causing alarm, distress, or intentional harassment to a person in public because of their sex.

Council therefore resolves to –

1. Request the Leader of the Council and the Leader of the Opposition write a joint cross-party letter to the Mayor of the West Midlands requesting a progress update on the WMCA’s recommendations set out for transport in the Combined Authority’s Violence against Women and Girls Strategy.
2. Call on all male Councillors to take the White Ribbon pledge, never to take part in, condone or stay silent about violence against women.
3. Request the Leader and Cabinet to work towards White Ribbon accreditation, joining the large number of public sector bodies which have already done so, with the Chief Executive as the authorities’ White Ribbon accreditation co-ordinator and for a cross-party working group to be established as our ‘action plan steering group’ during the accreditation process,



with all members of the working group to sign up for the White Ribbon Ambassador program.

4. Request that Council mark White Ribbon Day on 25 November each year and encourage participation among Councillors, council staff and local primary and secondary schools”

The motion was put to the vote and was carried.

152/23(c) **Community Policing**

The motion on Modern Slavery was withdrawn.

Meeting ended at 8.01pm

Contact: democratic_services@sandwell.gov.uk



Committee/Board/Other Body	Revision/nomination
Budget and Corporate Scrutiny Management Board	Councillor Trumpeter to replace Councillor Anandou
Audit and Risk Assurance	Councillor W Gill to replace Councillor Anandou Councillor Dunn to replace Councillor Trumpeter as Substitute Member
Licensing Committee	Councillor Johnston to replace Councillor Abrahams Councillor Hemingway to replace Councillor Davies
West Bromwich Town Chair	Councillor Melia to replace Councillor Akpoteni



Appendix B

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



District(s)	Elector Count	Polling Place	Proposed Change	Comments
				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, Penn cricket 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	



District(s)	Elector Count	Polling Place	Proposed Change	Comments
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 & 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	



District(s)	Elector Count	Polling Place	Proposed Change	Comments
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	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. 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. 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	



District(s)	Elector Count	Polling Place	Proposed Change	Comments
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	



District(s)	Elector Count	Polling Place	Proposed Change	Comments
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	



District(s)	Elector Count	Polling Place	Proposed Change	Comments
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



District(s)	Elector Count	Polling Place	Proposed Change	Comments
				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 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	



District(s)	Elector Count	Polling Place	Proposed Change	Comments
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	



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	For Parliamentary elections only: 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	For Parliamentary elections only: 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.

