

Partial Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places

Anston and Woodsetts,
Brinsworth and Catcliffe,
Maltby and
Rother Vale Wards of
Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council

Consultation Paper

Consultation Period runs from 21 July to 29 September 2017

1. Background to the Review

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 for UK Parliamentary elections. It also has to keep these arrangements under review. The arrangements made for parliamentary elections are also used at other elections.

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. Rotherham council undertook the last full compulsory review, including wide consultation, between November 2013 and December 2014.

Since then, issues have arisen about four of the council's designated polling places and it is therefore necessary to carry out a partial review in Anston and Woodsetts, Brinsworth and Catcliffe, Maltby and Rother Vale wards.

The existing Rotherham ward boundaries, and the parliamentary constituency boundaries, are not part of this review, although they are reviewed periodically by the relevant Boundary Committee or Commission.

2. Definitions

"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.

The polling place should in normal circumstances be situated within the polling district for which it is designated, but in some circumstances, for example where no suitable polling place can be found, then the polling place may be designated outside the polling district.

"Polling stations" are the number of issuing desks in the building that is the designated polling place, which generally range from one to three. The Returning Officer determines the number of polling stations depending on the electorate at a particular election. Wherever possible there should be no more than 2,500 electors allotted to a polling station.

3. The Review Process

The Returning Officer's proposals have been included in this consultation paper.

The council invites comments on the proposals. Public notice about the consultation will be given. The consultation paper will be sent to councillors, Members of Parliament, local political parties, and any other interested groups or persons, including those who have particular expertise in relation to access to premises or facilities for persons who have different forms of disability.

4. The Review Timetable

The timetable for the review is set out below:

Consultation to commence	Friday 21 July 2017
Closing date for representations	Friday 29 September 2017
Council's Cabinet meeting – recommendation of polling place changes	Monday 13 November 2017
Publication of revised Electoral Register	Friday 1 December 2017
Sheffield City Region Combined Authority Mayoral Elections	Thursday 3 May 2018

5. The Proposals

This document sets out details of current polling district and polling places for the three wards in question, along with the issues and any proposed changes.

The principles behind these proposals are:

- a) To try and identify new polling places in areas where the existing provision is inadequate or inconvenient.
- b) To ensure, as far as practicable, that any new polling places are accessible to people with disabilities.
- c) To ensure that all electors have such reasonable facilities for voting as are practicable in the circumstances.
- d) To try and minimise disruption to schools¹.

6. Making comments

Any elector may make representations. Representations must be received by **Friday 29 September 2017**, and should be addressed to:

Electoral Services, Riverside House, Main Street, Rotherham, S60 1AE

or emailed to: electoral.services@rotherham.gov.uk

The question sheet at the end of this document may be used for submitting your views. Or you can respond using our online form via www.rotherham.gov.uk/consultations

¹ It should be noted that for the purpose of taking the poll in England and Wales, the Returning Officer is entitled to use free of charge schools maintained or assisted by a local authority as well as those schools that receive grants made out of moneys provided by Parliament. This includes academies and free schools. (Rule 22, Sch 1, Representation of the People Act 1983)

Polling station scheme and Returning Officer's Proposals

Electorates as at 1 February 2017

Anston and Woodsetts Ward, Rother Valley Constituency

Polling District	Parish	Electorate	Current Polling Place	Number of polling stations
AA	Anston	1678	Anston Greenlands Primary School, Edinburgh Drive	1
AB	Anston	1609	Anston Park Junior School, Park Avenue	1
AC	Anston	2114	Anston Parish Hall, 15A Ryton Road	1
AD	Anston	1989	Anston Hillcrest Primary School, Hawthorne Avenue	1
AE	Woodsetts	1468	Woodsetts Village Hall, Gildingwells Road	2 (polling place is also used for district DF – Dinnington Ward)

The Headteacher at Anston Hillcrest Primary School has asked the Returning Officer to consider alternative venues to avoid closing the school.

Two alternative venues have been suggested, South Anston Methodist Community Hall on Sheffield Road and the Pre-School building at the rear of the school. The Pre-School is small with limited parking, so it is not considered to be suitable. The Methodist Community Hall is considered to be a suitable venue for polling, containing a large room with good facilities for voters, and having disabled access.

Q1 Do you approve of the South Anston Methodist Community Hall on Sheffield Road being used as a polling station for AD polling district?

Q2 Are there any other alternatives that the Council should consider?

Brinsworth and Catcliffe Ward, Rotherham Consituency

Polling District	Parish	Electorate	Current Polling Place	Number of polling stations
CA	-	802	Rotherham West Community Centre, Brinsford Road	1
CB	Brinsworth	2909	Brinsworth Community Hall, Brinsworth Lane	2
CC	Brinsworth	1240	Brinsworth Howarth Primary School, Whitehill Lane	1
CD	Brinsworth	1554	Brinsworth Whitehill Primary School, Howlett Drive	1
CE	Brinsworth	1220	St Andrews Church, Bonet Lane	1
CF	Catcliffe	1528	Catcliffe Memorial Hall, Old School Lane	1
CG	Catcliffe	307	AMRC Design Prototyping & Testing Centre, Wallis Way	2 (polling place is also used for district KG – Rother Vale Ward)

The council has been asked to consider an alternative venue for polling district CG and KG, as the AMRC Design Prototyping and Testing Centre has become much busier in recent times, and is not ideal for polling.

The Returning Officer's staff have visited the area and consider that the nearby AMP Technology Centre, Brunel Way, is a more suitable venue. A large meeting room is available on the first floor, with lifts available. There is also on-site parking and good facilities.

Q3 Do you approve of the AMP Technology Centre, Brunel Way being used as a polling station for the CG polling district?

Q4 Are there any other alternatives that the Council should consider?

Maltby Ward, Rother Valley Consituency

Polling District	Parish	Electorate	Current Polling Place	Number of polling stations
IA	Maltby	1340	Maltby Linx Youth Centre, Lilly Hall Road	1
IB	Maltby	527	The Grange Warden Centre, St. Bartholomew's Close	2 (polling place is also used for district IH)
IC	Maltby	1659	Maltby Manor Academy, Davy Drive	1
ID	Maltby	1199	Maltby Service Centre, Braithwell Road	1
IE	Maltby	1135	Edward Dunn Memorial Hall, Tickhill Road	1
IF	Maltby	1158	Maltby St Marys Catholic Primary School, Muglet Lane	1
IG	Maltby	918	Ascension Close Warden Centre, Ascension Close	1
IH	Hooton Levitt	101	The Grange Warden Centre, St. Bartholomew's Close	2 (polling place is also used for district IB)
II	Maltby	650	Charles Foster Community Centre, Woodland Gardens	1

As part of the council's Library Strategy, Maltby Library is scheduled to move into the Maltby Joint Service Centre on Braithwell Road in spring/summer 2017. This means that we will no longer be able to use the meeting room on the ground floor of the Service Centre as a polling place. There are meeting rooms on the first floor, but these are not as accessible or convenient for voters, and there could be issues with congestion.

The Maltby Lynx Youth Centre, in Lilly Hall Road, which is currently used as a polling place for the IA polling district, could easily accommodate another polling station. However, this would not be the preferred option, due to problems with parking in the area.

The Returning Officer's staff have approached other venues, including the Wesley Centre in Blyth Road. The Wesley Centre is considered to be a suitable venue for polling, containing a large hall with good facilities for voters, and having disabled access.

Q5 Do you approve of the Wesley Centre being used as a polling station for the ID polling district?

Q6 Are there any other alternatives that the Council should consider?

Rother Vale Ward, Rother Valley Constituency

Polling District	Parish	Electorate	Current Polling Place	Number of polling stations
KA	Treeton	2435	Treeton Youth Centre, Church Lane	1
KB	Orgreave	577	Mobile Library Unit, Rotherwood Avenue	1
KC	Aston-cum-Aughton	1497	Swallownest Community Centre, Rotherham Road	2 (polling place is also used for district FD – Holderness Ward)
KD	Aston-cum-Aughton	617	Aston Fence J & I School, Sheffield Road	1
KE	Ulley	137	Ulley Village Hall, Main Street	1
KF	Thurcroft	4223	Gordon Bennett Memorial Hall, Green Arbour Road	2
KF	Thurcroft		Gordon Bennett Memorial Hall, Green Arbour Road	
KG	Orgreave	771	AMRC Design Prototyping & Testing Centre, Wallis Way	2 (polling place is also used for district CG – Brinsworth and Catcliffe Ward)

The council's Mobile Library service has been withdrawn from April 2017, and is no longer available for use as a polling station.

There are no obvious options for a polling place in KB polling district, and it is not considered practical to site a portacabin on-street nor at the recreation ground.

However, Aston Fence Junior and Infant School, in Sheffield Road, which is currently used as a polling place for the KD polling district, could easily accommodate another polling station. This has good facilities for voters, and is around a 3 minute drive from Rotherwood Avenue.

Q7 Do you approve of Aston Fence J & I School, being used as a polling station for the KB polling district, as well as the KD polling district?

Q8 Are there any other alternatives that the Council should consider?

For the next two questions, please refer to the narrative on p.5 of this document.

Q9 Do you approve of the AMP Technology Centre, Brunel Way being used as a polling station for the KG polling district?

Q10 Are there any other alternatives that the Council should consider?

Consultation Response Form – Partial Review of Polling Places 2017

Your Name	
Your Address	

	Yes / No	Other Comments
Q1 Do you approve of the South Anston Methodist Community Hall on Sheffield Road being used as a polling station for AD polling district?		
Q2 Are there any other alternatives that the Council should consider?		
Q3 Do you approve of the AMP Technology Centre, Brunel Way being used as a polling station for the CG polling district?		
Q4 Are there any other alternatives that the Council should consider?		
Q5 Do you approve of the Wesley Centre being used as a polling station for the ID polling district?		
Q6 Are there any other alternatives that the Council should consider?		
Q7 Do you approve of Aston Fence J&I School, being used as a polling station for the KB polling district, as well as the KD polling district?		
Q8 Are there any other alternatives that the Council should consider?		
Q9 Do you approve of the AMP Technology Centre, Brunel Way being used as a polling station for the KG polling district?		
Q10 Are there any other alternatives that the Council should consider?		

Please return this form to: Electoral Services, Riverside House, Main Street, Rotherham, S60 1AE
or email to: electoral.services@rotherham.gov.uk
by 29 September 2017