

## Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places 2019

## Summary of responses to the consultation with Returning Officer comments

<b>Ward</b>	<b>Polling District</b>	<b>Respondent</b>	<b>Summary of response</b>	<b>RO comment</b>
Anston & Woodsetts	ANB	Anston Park Junior School	Objected to the use of the school for a number of reasons. Consider Anston Park Infant School instead, or local pubs	Electoral Services (ES) staff have visited the area. The local pub in the polling district is not considered a suitable polling place. Anston Park Infant School could be a suitable polling place, albeit with reduced parking provision. However, it is not clear that there would be any benefit in using the Infant School, as opposed to the Junior School. Both schools currently use polling day as an INSET day, as it is a shared site, and siblings use the two schools. The Infant School hosts breakfast and after school clubs for children at both schools.
Anston & Woodsetts	ANF	Cllr J Ireland	Objected to the ward boundary change	Ward boundary changes cannot be considered as part of the council's review of polling districts and polling places. Ward boundaries changes are the responsibility of the Local Government Boundary Commission, who recently undertook a review and consulted on the changes, culminating in the Rotherham Electoral Changes Order 2018.
Anston & Woodsetts	ANF	Cllr Clive Jepson	Supported the designation of Anston Park Junior School for this new polling district	Noted
Anston & Woodsetts	ANG	Cllr Clive Jepson	Not ideal, but appears that no other option than to use Harthill Village Hall	Noted

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Aughton & Swallownest	AUG	Aughton Early Years Centre	Objected to the use of Aughton Early Years Centre for a number of reasons. No specific alternatives recommended.	ES staff have already investigated potential alternatives, but consider that the Early Years Centre is the most suitable.
Aughton & Swallownest		Ulley Parish Council	Support the proposals for the new ward, in particular the retention of Ulley Village Hall for AUE.	Noted
Boston Castle	BCB	Talbot Lane Centre	The Centre have informed us that Talbot Lane Methodist Church will be closing on 14 <sup>th</sup> July	ES staff have since been informed that Talbot Lane Methodist Church should be available. In the event of it not being available, the Town Hall is a contingency venue.
Boston Castle	BCI	The Hub Church	The Hub Church is on the market and may have changed ownership by 2020	Noted – to be kept under review. This is a small polling district which was previously part of the BCB polling district. The Hub is quite close to Canklow Woods Primary School, which already serves the BCG polling district, and could accommodate the BCI voters.
Boston Castle	BCI	Community Relations	Suggested alternative polling place, Voluntary Action Rotherham, Coke Hill.	The management team at VAR have considered our request to visit the premises with a view to its use as a polling place but do not consider the premises suitable.

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Bramley & Ravenfield		Elector	Ask people where there preferred places would be; public houses are usually in better locations, have parking and easy to find	<p>A key point of this consultation is to encourage suggestions for alternative venues which are suitable for voting.</p> <p>Public houses may be considered, for example if they have a separate function room and if they are more suitable than an existing polling place. However some people may not wish to vote in licensed premises.</p>
Dinnington	DID	Dinnington Town Council	Suggested that Lyric Theatre, Laughton Road, would be an ideal polling place – near bus station and car parks, disabled access, good facilities, and large enough.	<p>The Lyric Theatre is situated in the DID polling district, which is currently served by Dinnington Resource Centre. The Resource Centre is deemed to be a suitable polling place, and there have been no objections to its continued use.</p> <p>ES staff have visited the Lyric Theatre to assess its suitability. It would be a good alternative / contingency, but there is no compelling reason to change the existing polling place.</p>
Dinnington	DIE	St Joseph's Catholic Primary School	Supports the proposal to use St Joseph's Catholic Church Hall, instead of the School	Noted

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Hellaby & Maltby West	HEA	Elector	Objected to the ward boundary change and the perceived change of polling place for Hellaby.	<p>Ward boundary changes cannot be considered as part of the council's review of polling districts and polling places. Ward boundaries changes are the responsibility of the Local Government Boundary Commission, who recently undertook a review and consulted on the changes, culminating in the Rotherham Electoral Changes Order 2018.</p> <p>Hellaby parish boundary has not changed, and is still contained within a single polling district. The proposal is to continue to allot electors in HEA to the Centenary Hall polling place.</p>
Keppel	KEF	Elector	Suggested amendment to the KEF polling district boundary and send the voters living close to Keppel's column to KEB – Scholes Cricket Pavilion	ES staff have looked at the boundary between KEB and KEF. To amend it would involve transferring around 600 voters to the Scholes Cricket Pavilion (see Table 1 below). The pavilion is not considered suitable for accommodating these additional voters. There are good transport links for the affected voters to the polling place for KEF, Artworks Community Centre.
Kilnhurst & Swinton East	KIC	Elector	Suggested amendment to the KIC polling district boundary and send the voters around Wharf View estate to KIA – Kilnhurst Resource Centre	ES staff have looked at the boundary between KIA and KIC. To amend it would involve transferring around 300 voters to the Kilnhurst Resource Centre (see Table 2 below). This would be more convenient for the affected voters, and would provide a better division of electorate between the polling places. Both polling districts will now be within the same ward.

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Rawmarsh East	RAEA	Rawmarsh St Joseph's School	Objected to the use of the school for a number of reasons. Rawmarsh Customer Service Centre suggested as an alternative.	ES staff have visited the Customer Services Centre, and consider this to be a suitable polling place. There is a Community Meeting Room on the ground floor, with easy access. The facilities are good, there is plenty of parking and disabled access. Although not as centrally placed within the polling district as Rawmarsh St Joseph's School, the Customer Services Centre is well known and a community hub. The School would remain a contingency venue.
Rotherham East	ROEA	Eastwood Village CC	Happy to be used as a polling place	Noted
Rotherham East	ROEB ROEF	Community Relations	Suggested use of polling places run by CVS, eg REMA and Rotherfed	The Unity Centre and Springwell Gardens Community Centre are already designated polling places
Rotherham East	ROEE ROEF	Housing Services	Current arrangements satisfactory, no plans to close centres	Noted
Rotherham West	ROWA	Cllr W Cooksey	Supports the proposal to use St Thomas Community Church Hall, instead of the St Bede's Catholic Primary School	Noted
Rotherham West	ROWA	St Bede's Catholic Primary School	Objected to the use of the school for a number of reasons.	Noted – the proposal is to use St Thomas Community Hall instead

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Rotherham West	ROWC	Cllr I Jones	<p>a) Regarding Meadow View Primary School – Distance to the polling station and the steep incline is an issue. Suggested that the lower car park be opened to assist elderly and disabled residents.</p> <p>b) Suggested Richmond Park Community Centre as an alternative</p>	<p>a) The majority of electors use the top car park and then walk down via the path leading to the community room. The community room is on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor above the school and is separate from the rest of the school so therefore the school can stay open on polling day. Disabled electors can use the lower car park at any point in the day, and a note can be put on poll cards to highlight this. There is a lift from the ground floor to the 1<sup>st</sup> floor. The school has been provided with a wireless buzzer to alert the polling staff that there is someone who needs to use the lift.</p> <p>b) ES staff have visited the Richmond Park Community Centre. The premises have disabled access, and could possibly be considered as a polling place, but the venue is not ideal, with vehicular access being problematic. It is considered to be less suitable than the school.</p>
Rotherham West	ROWD	Elector	Strong objection to the use of Kelford School – this is a special school and children’s attendance already affected due to medical appointments etc.	No alternatives have been identified. ES will consider alternatives where there is a more suitable venue in the polling district. The decision to close a school lies with the Headteacher, and ES will work with schools to see if there is a way to keep the school open while considering safeguarding issues.
Rotherham West		Elector	General objection to the closure of schools as polling places.	ES will consider alternatives where there is a more suitable venue in the polling district. The decision to close a school lies with the Headteacher, and ES will work with schools to see if there is a way to keep the school open while considering safeguarding issues.

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Sitwell	SIG	Elector	Access to Whiston Parish Hall is poor, with a slope to the main door and no pavement to the hall. Schools or churches are better options.	<p>Wheelchair access is possible, there is a disabled bay in the car park, and there are no steps. Although pedestrians can also access the building from the High Street, it is recognised that the access via Well Lane is tight. Therefore the proposal is to limit the polling place to a single polling station.</p> <p>The two Whiston schools are already used as polling places for the ward, and the nearby Methodist church has a number of steps.</p>
Wales	WAB	Elector	Supports the proposal to use the Methodist Church, instead of Wales Primary School	Noted
Wath	WHD	Cllr A Atkin	Suggested Newhill Chapel, Varney Road, as an alternative to Wath Central Primary School, if it is available	ES staff have visited the Newhill Chapel, which is currently being refurbished. It appears that it would be suitable as a polling place, with nice facilities, and a central location. ES staff will need to re-visit and monitor progress with the building works. The School would remain a contingency venue.
Wath		Cllr A Atkin	Supports other proposals for Wath	Noted
Wath	WHD	Wath Central Primary School	Objected to the use of the school / closure of the school, due to disruption for children's education.	No alternatives have been put forward by the school, but a potential alternative, Newhill Chapel, has been identified (see above)

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General		Community Relations	<p>Suggested:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) other methods of voting – online, social media, extension of postal voting</li> <li>b) poll cards in different languages</li> <li>c) use of CVS buildings, community halls, faith buildings</li> <li>d) increase the number of councillors per ward</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Methods of voting in the UK are controlled by national legislation, the Representation of the People Act. The methods are restricted to voting in person, by post or by proxy. Postal voting is already available on demand.</li> <li>b) Poll cards must follow the prescribed form in the relevant election rules. By law, ballot papers can only be produced in English. However, notices in polling stations may, and are, translated into other languages.</li> <li>c) A range of buildings are currently used and proposed in the polling place review.</li> <li>d) The number of councillors cannot be considered as part of the council’s review of polling districts and polling places. This issue is the responsibility of the Local Government Boundary Commission, who recently undertook an electoral review, culminating in the Rotherham Electoral Changes Order 2018.</li> </ul>



Table 1

<b>If properties were to be transferred from KEF to KEB</b>			
<b>Roads</b>	<b>No of properties</b>	<b>No of electors</b>	<b>No of electors excluding postal voters (approximately)</b>
Admirals Crest	50	90	46
Alder Chase	8	20	18
Cedarwood Court	14	28	26
Droppingwell Road	2	1	1
Elderberry Close	16	18	16
Hesley Grange	61	122	87
Hesley Mews	11	30	23
Kelvin Court	10	22	17
Keppel Drive	12	18	11
Keppel Heights	3	4	4
Keppel Road	42	80	63
Louden Close	1	1	1
Louden Road	54	100	65
Middlewood Drive	19	47	36
Scholes Field Close	17	40	16
Scholes Lane	14	30	19
The Grange	16	28	19
Upper Wortley Road (405-455 & 410-540 Grange Park Farm & Club House only)	65	109	78
Wentworth Place	20	35	26
Willowdale Rise	5	10	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>440</b>	<b>827</b>	<b>578</b>

Table 2

<b>Properties to be transferred from KIC to KIA</b>			
<b>Roads</b>	<b>No of properties</b>	<b>No of electors</b>	<b>No of electors excluding postal voters (approximately)</b>
Baker Close (not built yet)	26	0	0
Blunn Croft (not built yet)	16	0	0
Broadhead Close (not complete)	19	22	16
Canalside View	59	109	86
Countryside Way	27	54	40
De Montford Drive (not complete)	22	3	3
Don Grange	15	22	22
Ellison Drive (not complete)	53	25	18
Jagger Court	4	5	5
Mitchell Croft (not built yet)	38	0	0
Thomas Hill Grove (not built yet)	46	0	0
Waterway Lane	25	49	44
Wharf Road	38	60	50
<b>Total</b>	<b>388</b>	<b>349</b>	<b>284</b>