

**Blaby District Council  
Council**

<b>Date of Meeting</b>	22 November 2022
<b>Title of Report</b>	<b>Polling Districts, Places &amp; Stations Review</b> This is not a Key Decision and is on the Forward Plan
<b>Lead Member</b>	<b>Cllr. Terry Richardson - Leader of the Council</b>
<b>Report Author</b>	Corporate Services Group Manager and Monitoring Officer
<b>Corporate Priority</b>	A Place to Live

**1. What is this report about?**

- 1.1 To provide information to Council and to seek approval for the revised Polling Districts, Places and Stations Schedule as a result of the Interim Review of Polling Districts, Polling Places and Polling Stations.

**2. Recommendation(s) to Council**

- 2.1 To approve the Returning Officers Recommendations provided in Appendix A subject to the Electoral Changes Order being made.

**3. Reason for Decisions Recommended**

- 3.1 The local authority has a duty to review their polling districts, places and polling stations to ensure that electors have accessible facilities for voting. This interim review was necessitated by the changes to electoral boundaries as a result of the Local Government Boundary Commission for England's Review.

**4. Matters to consider**

- 4.1 Background

The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) concluded its review of Blaby District electoral boundaries in July 2023 which resulted in a number of boundary changes and reduction in the number of councillors.

This necessitated an interim review of those polling districts affected by the boundary changes to maintain accessible polling facilities for voters and to ensure that the successful administration of our elections can continue.

Where new district ward boundaries cut through an existing polling district, it is necessary to create a new polling district to reflect these boundaries and to allow the correct electoral registers to be produced.

A 'polling district' is a geographical subdivision of an electoral area such as a county division or a district ward within which a polling place is designated.

A 'polling place' is an area or building in which a polling station is usually located and can be a complete polling district.

The electoral change order which will bring the LGBCE electoral boundary changes into force was laid before Parliament on 1 November 2022. The recommendations of this Interim Polling District Review should be implemented subject to the electoral change order being made.

Those existing polling districts which have not been affected by the LGBCE review recommendations are not subject to this interim review. A full compulsory review of all UK Parliamentary polling districts and places will commence in late 2023 in accordance with the Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013.

#### 4.2 Proposal(s)

That the recommendations of the Returning Officer (RO) are approved subject to the electoral changes order being made. Full details of the recommendations and consultation responses can be found in Appendix A. The table below summarises these changes:

Existing polling district	New polling districts	Existing polling station arrangements	New polling station arrangements
A	A1, A2	Blaby Parish Centre	No change
E	E1, E2	Braunstone Working Men's Club	E1- Braunstone Working Men's Club E2- St Crispin's Church (NEW)
F	F1, F2	Braunstone Working Men's Club	F1- Braunstone Working Men's Club F2- St Crispin's Church (NEW)
H	H1, H2	Braunstone Civic Centre	H1- Braunstone Civic Centre H2- St Crispin's Church (NEW)
DJ	DJ1, DJ2	Park House	No change
DL	DL1, DL2	Park House	DL1- The Hall Pre-School DL2- Park House
DR	DR1, DR2	St Andrews Church Hall	DR1- Stafford Leys Primary School DR2- Fossebrook Primary School (NEW)
DS	DS1, DS2	St Andrews Church Hall	DS1- St Andrews Church Hall DS2- Stafford Leys Primary School

#### 4.3 Relevant Consultations

A public consultation took place between 22<sup>nd</sup> August to 15<sup>th</sup> October 2022, where the council invited representations from any interested stakeholders, including members of the Council, Parish Councils and people who have particular expertise in relation to accessibility for individuals with any type of disability.

The responses received during the consultation period along with the (A)ROs comments are published in the schedule which is attached at Appendix A.

#### 5. What will it cost and are there opportunities for savings?

- 5.1 The addition of two new polling stations will increase the cost of venue hire and staffing costs on polling days.
- 5.2 One of the additional polling stations is a school, who cannot charge for use of the venue (except for heat and lighting) under Paragraph 20 The Local Elections (Principal Areas) Rules 2006.
- 5.3 Costs associated with the hire of venues and staffing are met by the Central Government Electoral Claims Unit at all polls other than the election of District and Parish Councillors. At Parish elections the cost is covered by the Parish Council. At District elections, the cost must be covered by Blaby District Council.

#### 6. What are the risks and how can they be reduced?

- 6.1 See table below

Current Risk	Actions to reduce the risks
New polling station location – electors not knowing where they should go to vote	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Letters will be sent to those voters who's polling station has changed.</li><li>- Poll Cards will include details of the new polling station and will include text to highlight the change.</li><li>- Local publicity and the use of social media prior to election day.</li></ul>

#### 7. Other options considered

- 7.1 None.

#### 8. Environmental impact

- 8.1 None.

#### 9. Other significant issues

- 9.1 None.

## **10. Appendix**

10.1 Appendix A- Schedule of Polling Districts and Polling Places

## **11. Background paper(s)**

11.1 There are no relevant background papers for this report.

## **12. Report author's contact details**

Katie Brooman                      Senior Electoral Services Officer  
Katie.brooman@blaby.gov.uk   0116 272 7636