

NON-CONFIDENTIAL



Borough of Tamworth

2 September 2019

Dear Councillor

You are hereby summoned to attend a **meeting of the Council of this Borough** to be held on **TUESDAY, 10TH SEPTEMBER, 2019** at 6.10 pm in the **TOWN HALL, MARKET STREET, TAMWORTH**, for the transaction of the following business:-

AGENDA

NON CONFIDENTIAL

- 1 Apologies for Absence**
- 2 To receive the Minutes of the previous meeting** (Pages 3 - 10)
- 3 Declarations of Interest**

To receive any declarations of Members' interests (pecuniary and non-pecuniary) in any matters which are to be considered at this meeting.

When Members are declaring a pecuniary or non-pecuniary interest in respect of which they have dispensation, they should specify the nature of such interest. Members should leave the room if they have a pecuniary or non-pecuniary interest in respect of which they do not have a dispensation.

- 4 To receive any announcements from the Mayor, Leader, Members of the Cabinet or the Chief Executive**
- 5 Question Time:**
 - (i) To answer questions from members of the public pursuant to Procedure Rule No. 10.
 - (ii) To answer questions from members of the Council pursuant to Procedure Rule No. 11

6 Annual Report on the Treasury Management Service and Actual Prudential Indicators 2018/19 (Pages 11 - 30)

(The Report of the Portfolio Holder for Assets and Finance)

7 Tamworth Parliamentary Constituency - Review of Polling Districts, Polling Places and Polling Stations (Pages 31 - 118)

(Report of the Chief Executive)

Yours faithfully



CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Access arrangements

If you have any particular access requirements when attending the meeting, please contact Democratic Services on 01827 709267 or e-mail democratic-services@tamworth.gov.uk. We can then endeavour to ensure that any particular requirements you may have are catered for.

Filming of Meetings

The public part of this meeting may be filmed and broadcast. Please refer to the Council's Protocol on Filming, Videoing, Photography and Audio Recording at Council meetings which can be found [here](#) for further information.

The Protocol requires that no members of the public are to be deliberately filmed. Where possible, an area in the meeting room will be set aside for videoing, this is normally from the front of the public gallery. This aims to allow filming to be carried out whilst minimising the risk of the public being accidentally filmed.

If a member of the public is particularly concerned about accidental filming, please consider the location of any cameras when selecting a seat.

FAQs

For further information about the Council's Committee arrangements please see the FAQ page [here](#)

Marmion House
Lichfield Street
Tamworth



**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
COUNCIL
HELD ON 16th JULY 2019**

PRESENT: Councillor R Kingstone (Mayor), Councillors R Claymore, D Box, R Bilcliff, T Clements, D Cook, M Cook, C Cooke, S Doyle, A Farrell, J Faulkner, R Ford, S Goodall, M Greatorex, M J Greatorex, T Jay, K Norchi, J Oates, M Oates, S People, Dr S People, B Price, R Rogers, P Standen, M Summers and P Thurgood

The following officers were present: Andrew Barratt (Chief Executive), Anica Goodwin (Executive Director Organisation), Zoe Wolicki (Assistant Director People) and Jodie Small (Legal, Democratic and Corporate Support Assistant)

Apologies received from: Councillor(s) M Bailey, P Brindley, J Chesworth and R Pritchard

1 TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 21st May 2019 were approved and signed as a correct record.

(Moved by Councillor D Cook and seconded by Councillor Dr S People)

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor P Standen declared an interest in Agenda item 6 and advised during this item he would leave the Chamber.

3 TO RECEIVE ANY ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE MAYOR, LEADER, MEMBERS OF THE CABINET OR THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

The following announcements were made:

Councillor Mayor R Kingstone

“There have been a few questions as to why we are here in this Council Chamber this evening

I am firmly of the opinion unless we start to use this building it will fall in to a state of disrepair so the only way we can encourage other people to use this building is to use it ourselves.

So for the duration of my term of office as Mayor, all future full Council meetings unless there is a situation where we have a contentious issue and a large number of members of public wish to attend, all Council meetings will be held in this building if you have any problems with that please see me after.

With that in mind I have noticed Councillor Oates wanted to comment.

Councillor J Oates

“Thank you Mr Mayor. There was an announcement I have to make and that is that Council may be aware we applied for future high street funding earlier on in the year unfortunately we were unsuccessful with this first round of funding, so we will not be in receipt of any future high street funding at this stage, however we have bid for heritage action zone funding which is a spin off, of the same support and that bid has being submitted.

Going back to future high street funding we have received a letter from Jake Berry MP and I would just like to quote the start of the second paragraph “we were impressed by the standard of your application so I would like to offer you bespoke feedback on your bid and your proposal will be pass ported to the second round of the funding which will begin next year” so bad news is we didn’t get it this year, however from that paragraph there I would suggest we are in a good position to get it next year and they have offered bespoke feedback on our bid so at this point there is light at the end of the tunnel Mr Mayor”

Councillor Dr S People

“Thank you Mr Mayor as many of you attended earlier I’m sure that I need to say very little, Which I’m sure will be a blessing but Debbie Bates was one of those wonderful lovely people that gave herself to so many people and down in the hub the other day the number of ordinary simple straight forward people who were writing in that book saying their memories of her and the number of people who were there today demonstrated just how much she touched the hearts of so many people.

It meant a huge amount to Councillor Bates and it made a real tremendous positive thing on a day which can never be right, which can never be good, but for which can be made better by the fact that there are those around you who value the person that you’ve lost and therefore Mr Mayor if we do agree I would like to invite Councillors to pause for a moment.

Councillor Mayor R Kingstone

“Yes given that Debbie was a past Mayoress of Tamworth just a few years ago it’s only right and proper that we just stand for a moment on reflection and thank Debbie for her contribution she has made to Tamworth as a whole.

4 QUESTION TIME:**QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL NO. 1**

Under Procedure Rule No 11, Councillor Dr S People will ask the Portfolio Holder for Heritage and Growth, Councillor J Oates, the following question:-

“Does the portfolio holder share the view of his Conservative colleague that it does not matter if the Tamworth Enterprise Centre never makes a financial return?”

Councillor J Oates gave the following reply:-

“Thank you Mr Mayor, Yes the primary purpose of the Tamworth Enterprise Centre is to incubate growth from the local economy”

Councillor Dr.S People asked the following supplementary question

Thank you Mr Mayor, Can I therefore ask the portfolio holder whether he is been completely inconsistent since we were told all other investments have to meet financial criteria and yet apparently this one doesn't.”

Councillor J Oates gave the following reply:-

Thank you Mr Mayor that very much depends on the measure you are using against success, an economy like crops will only grow if provided with the right conditions.

The Borough Councils investment in the Tamworth Enterprise Centre is about growth of the local economy.

We are only 2 years in, we have already seen some fantastic results from the enterprise centre in fact it's that well thought of, only last month we had officers from Solihull come to have a look to see what we are doing and to see if they can copy our success to drive their economy.

The returns are far greater than our investment and making a profit in any individual buildings.

The Council has provided market leading, high quality, easy access, small business accommodation that has set the standard for other developments

We now have 3 other entities' of a similar nature open in our town centre.

Every current tenant has grown to the extent where they have taken on extra members of staff who are giving people an opportunity to get started.

Over the 2 years we have run training courses , Rented meeting rooms out and held floor space for interviews etc., to have 5000 people take advantage of those

courses, the meeting rooms or a place for an interview venue so yes it is a success and yes it depends on the measure .

In fact we are not just pushing our way through Tamworth we also have the GBS LEP and the growth hub based in Tamworth and when they put a course on in Tamworth they get more people than they do at any other venue. It's a real focal point and we should be proud of this.

We are constantly trying to become financially sustainable we are only 2 years in, we will continue to strive to do that we need to re assess our charges and we need to make wherever possible the best return to the tax payer of Tamworth. But this is not just about an investment in cash terms to the Borough Council this is about an investment to our economy and the wider benefits which help the businesses of Tamworth grow.

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL NO. 2

Under Procedure Rule No 11, Councillor Dr S People will ask the Leader of the Council, Councillor D Cook, the following question:-

“Does the Leader of the Council agree that if Tamworth is to sit in the Stoke and Staffordshire LEP, it should have its own seat on the board and not have to share representation with another authority?”

Councillor D Cook gave the following reply:-

“Thank you Mr Mayor.

Could not agree more with the statement in the question. In fact around twelve months ago, I spoke with the deputy Leader of Staffordshire County Council where I stated that if government told Tamworth that we are now members of the Staffs / Stoke LEP only that we want a seat on the board to fully engage.

That said, Cllr People will be aware within the changes to the governance of all LEP's (arising from the “Strengthening Local Enterprise Partnerships” paper set out by government), there is a proposed limit on board membership numbers. These both limits the number of overall seats on the board, and further limits the public sector membership of those seats to a maximum of a third of this number.

The maximum permanent board membership is 20 people with at least two thirds from the private sector, 14 places basically. There are also targets around female representation and other equality box ticking. All members will of course know that I support equality in as aspects of our society, but forced equality does not achieve equality, it just box ticking.

It was agreed at the last Staffordshire Leaders meeting that there was to be one seat for SCC, one for SOT city, two districts places from the north, and two from the south.

This means that southern Staffordshire has two seats on the SSLEP for four districts, it was then agreed by all Leaders that Tamworth and Lichfield will

alternate for one seat, and Cannock and East Staffs will alternate for the other seat.

On 28th of June, I met with our MP Chris Pincher to discuss a few matters of concern locally. The LEP review and its HR equality box ticking was on my list and Chris was left fully understanding the cross party feeling in Tamworth about the lack of need for the review.

Councillor Dr.S People asked the following supplementary question

Thank you Mr Mayor In coming to my supplemental I'm sure the leader will indulge me slightly when I say that I raised the issue of the LEP review at the GBS LEP and we are writing from the GBS LEP to the current Mr Jake Berry of previous mention to ask him to reconsider, the one hope is that if his preferred candidate in the leadership election wins he may get moved and we might get a fresh set of thinking.

The leader will I'm asking comment then on 2 things first of all the Staffordshire LEP praises the fact that it supports nurse training at Staffordshire University to the best of my knowledge nurse training places are allocated by the government it's not therefore bringing in additional work or employment. It's simply subsidising an organisation that can afford to pay their chief executive two hundred and one thousand pounds a year so I think the leader will agree with me that some of this rigor of appraisal needs to improve, therefore would he agree that if we are forced in to this LEP then we need to see an improvement in scrutiny arrangements which currently only involve Staffordshire County Council and Stoke Council holding a joint scrutiny meeting none of the districts are represented on that scrutiny committee unless the members are double hatted and would you agree you therefore must be greater transparency of the LEPs activities if we are going to be made to be members. Thank you."

Councillor D Cook gave the following reply:-

Thank you again Mr Mayor and thank you again Councillor People for your question. I'm not sure I can comment on nurse training because it's the first I've heard of it, but I'm more than happy to discuss it with the member.

On the Scrutiny point, 100% agree and I charge Councillor Oates with raising that with the County Council if possible about the fairness of that.

I will quote Councillor Oates on something he says to me quite regularly about the LEP review, Yes I fundamentally expect there to be a different minister in place once the new prime minister is selected but as Councillor Oates regularly reminds me the ministry is one thing, the civil service don't change and that's our concern.

I was informed yesterday by the Chief Executive that the first action had been taken by the LEP review where Chesterfield have been forcibly removed from the city region of Sheffield LEP and forced in to Derby Nottinghamshire, I'm aware Councillor Greatorex knows Chesterfield quite well and if anybody wants to speak

to Councillor Greateorex he will tell you Chesterfield is part of the city region of Chesterfield it has very little to do with Derby or Nottingham.
It's about putting things in nice neat circles and economies just simply don't work that way.

5 PAY POLICY STATEMENT 2019

The report of the Leader of the Council which details Tamworth Borough Council's Pay Policy Statement so that statutory guidance as set out in S38 of the Localism Act is adhered to

RESOLVED That Council;

Approved the pay policy statement 2019 for adoption and publication, in line with the localism Act 2011

(Moved by Councillor D Cook and seconded by Councillor Dr S Peaple)

6 APPOINTMENT OF A DEPUTY ELECTORAL REGISTRATION OFFICER

Councillor P standen left the Chamber at 18.36

The report of the Chief Executive to seek Council approval to appoint a Deputy Electoral Registration Officer (DERO), with the same duties as the Electoral Registration Officer, to provide resilience and business continuity in this role

RESOLVED That Council;

Approved the appointment of the senior elections officer, Mrs Bernadette Flanagan, to the role of Deputy Electoral Registration Officer under section 52(2) of the representation of People Act 1983, having the same duties as the Electoral Registration Officer.

(Moved by Councillor D Cook and seconded by Councillor Dr S Peaple)

Councillor P Standen returned to the chamber at 18.40

7 CONFIRMATION OF THE APPOINTMENT OF THE MONITORING OFFICER

The Report of the Chief Executive to seek Council approval to appoint a Monitoring Officer in accordance with local government legislation and the Councils Constitution

RESOLVED that Council;

Approved the appointment of Rebecca Neill to the role of Monitoring Officer upon her commencement with the authority as Head of Audit & Governance on the 19th August 2019.

(Moved by Councillor D Cook and seconded by Councillor Dr S People)

8 OUTSIDE BODIES LIST 2019/2020

RESOLVED That Council;

Endorsed the Outside Bodies List 2019/2020 with an amendment to Councillor Dr S Peoples initials.

(Moved by Councillor D Cook and seconded by Councillor Dr S People)

The Mayor

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COUNCIL

10 SEPTEMBER 2019

REPORT OF THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR ASSETS AND FINANCE

ANNUAL REPORT ON THE TREASURY MANAGEMENT SERVICE AND ACTUAL PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS 2018/19

PURPOSE

The Annual Treasury report is a requirement of the Council's reporting procedures. It covers the Treasury activity for 2018/19, and the actual Prudential Indicators for 2018/19.

The report meets the requirements of both the CIPFA Code of Practice on Treasury Management and the CIPFA Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities. The Council is required to comply with both Codes in accordance with Regulations issued under the Local Government Act 2003. It also provides an opportunity to review the approved Treasury Management Strategy for the current year and enables Members to consider and approve any issues identified that require amendment.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That Council;

- 1. Approve the actual 2018/19 Prudential and Treasury Indicators within the report and shown at Appendix 1; and**
- 2. Accept the Annual Treasury Management Report for 2018/19.**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report covers Treasury operations for the year ended 31st March 2019 and summarises:

- the Council's Treasury position as at 31st March 2019; and
- Performance Measurement

The key points raised for 2018/19 are

1. The Council's Capital Expenditure and Financing 2018/19
2. The Council's Overall Borrowing Need
3. Treasury Position as at 31st March 2019
4. The Strategy for 2018/19
5. Borrowing Outturn for 2018/19
6. Investment Outturn for 2018/19
7. Performance Measurement

8. The Economy and Interest Rates

9. Other Issues

The Treasury Function has achieved the following favourable results:

- The Council has complied with the professional codes, statutes and guidance;
- There are no issues to report regarding non-compliance with the approved prudential indicators;
- The Council maintained an average investment balance externally invested of £66.3m and achieved an average return of 0.82% (budgeted at £54.2m and an average return of 0.50%).
- This result compares favourably with the Council's own Benchmarks of the average 7 day and the 3 month LIBID rates for 2018/19 of 0.50% and 0.68%;
- The closing weighted average internal rate on borrowing is 4.05% (4.05% for 2017/18);
- The Treasury Management Function has achieved an outturn investment income of £547k compared to a budget of £176k as a result of both investment balances and average interest rates being higher than budgeted.
- We also received an additional £108k in dividends from our property fund investments, due to investment being made earlier than budgeted. The net value of the investments had fallen by £49k as at 31st March 2019 after entry fees of £77k.

During 2018/19 the Council complied with its legislative and regulatory requirements.

The Executive Director Finance confirms that there was no overall increase in borrowing within the year and the Authorised Limit was not breached.

At 31st March 2019, the Council's external debt was £63.060m (£63.060m at 31st March 2018) and its external investments totalled £64.92m (£60.77m at 31st March 2018) – including interest credited but excluding impaired investments.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications or staffing implications arising directly from the report.

LEGAL/RISK IMPLICATIONS

The Council is aware of the risks of passive management of the Treasury Portfolio and with the support of Link Asset Services, the Council's current Treasury advisers, has proactively managed its debt and investments during the year.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

None

REPORT AUTHOR

If Members would like further information or clarification prior to the meeting please contact Stefan Garner, telephone 01827 709242 or email stefan-garner@tamworth.gov.uk

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

- Local Government Act 2003;
- Statutory Instruments: 2003 No 3146 & 2007 No 573;
- CIPFA Code of Practice on Treasury Management in Public Services;
- Treasury Management Strategy 2018/19 (Council 27th February 2018);
- Treasury Management Mid-Year Review 2018/19 (Council 11th December 2018);
- Treasury Outturn Report 2017/18 (Council 11th September 2018);
- CIPFA Treasury Benchmarking Club Report 2018;
- Treasury Management Strategy 2017/18 (Council 21st February 2017).

APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Prudential and Treasury Indicators

Appendix 2 – Borrowing and Investment Rates

Annual Treasury Management Review 2018/19

This Council is required by regulations issued under the Local Government Act 2003 to produce an annual treasury management review of activities and the actual prudential and treasury indicators for 2018/19. This report meets the requirements of both the CIPFA Code of Practice on Treasury Management (the Code) and the CIPFA Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities (the Prudential Code).

During 2018/19 the minimum reporting requirements were complied with:

- an annual treasury strategy in advance of the year (Council 27th February 2018)
- a mid-year (minimum) treasury update report (Council 11th December 2018)
- an annual review following the end of the year describing the activity compared to the strategy (this report)

In addition, Cabinet has received quarterly Treasury management updates as part of the Financial Healthcheck Reports.

The regulatory environment places responsibility on members for the review and scrutiny of treasury management policy and activities. This report is, therefore, important in that respect, as it provides details of the outturn position for treasury activities and highlights compliance with the Council's policies previously approved by members.

This Council confirms that it has complied with the requirement under the Code to provide scrutiny of all of the above Treasury Management Reports to the Audit and Governance Committee. Member training on Treasury Management issues was provided in February 2018, and will be provided as and when required in order to support members' scrutiny role.

During 2018/19, the Council complied with its legislative and regulatory requirements. The key actual prudential and treasury indicators detailing the impact of capital expenditure activities during the year, with comparators, are as follows.

Prudential & Treasury Indicators	2017/18 Actual £m	2018/19 Estimate £m	2018/19 Actual £m
Capital Expenditure			
Non HRA	1.545	12.932	10.515
HRA	7.655	30.396	9.266
Total	9.200	43.328	19.781
Capital Financing Requirement			
Non HRA	0.885	2.547	0.828
HRA	68.041	75.255	68.041
Total	68.926	77.802	68.869
Gross Borrowing			
External Debt	63.060	63.060	63.060
Investments			
Longer than 1 year	-	-	3.820
Less than 1 year	60.805	54.198	64.941
Total	60.805	54.198	68.761
Net Borrowing	2.255	8.862	(5.701)

It should be noted that **£40.283m** of Capital scheme spend has been re-profiled into 2019/20 (also including re-profiling from previous years) which has increased investment balances.

The Executive Director Finance confirms that there was no overall increase in borrowing in year and the statutory borrowing limit (the authorised limit) was not breached.

The financial year 2018/19 continued the challenging investment environment of previous years, namely low investment returns.

1. The Council's Capital Expenditure and Financing 2018/19

The Council undertakes capital expenditure on long-term assets. These activities may either be:

- Financed immediately through the application of capital or revenue resources (capital receipts, capital grants, revenue contributions etc.), which has no resultant impact on the Council's borrowing need; or
- If insufficient financing is available, or a decision is taken not to apply internal funds, the capital expenditure would give rise to a borrowing need.

The actual capital expenditure forms one of the required prudential indicators. The table below shows the actual capital expenditure and how this was financed.

General Fund	2017/18 Actual £m	2018/19 Estimate £m	2018/19 Actual £m
Capital Expenditure	1.545	12.932	10.515
Financed in year	1.545	11.166	10.515
Unfinanced capital expenditure	-	1.766	-
HRA	2017/18 Actual £m	2018/19 Estimate £m	2018/19 Actual £m
Capital Expenditure	7.655	30.396	9.266
Financed in year	7.655	23.182	9.266
Unfinanced capital expenditure	-	7.214	-

2. The Council's Overall Borrowing Need

The Council's underlying need to borrow for capital expenditure is termed the Capital Financing Requirement (CFR). This figure is a gauge of the Council's indebtedness. The CFR results from the capital activity of the Council and resources used to pay for the capital spend. It represents the 2018/19 unfinanced capital expenditure (see above table), and prior years' net or unfinanced capital expenditure which has not yet been paid for by revenue or other resources.

Part of the Council's treasury activities is to address the funding requirements for this borrowing need. Depending on the capital expenditure programme, the treasury service organises the Council's cash position to ensure that sufficient cash is available to meet the capital plans and cash flow requirements. This may be sourced through borrowing from external bodies (such as the Government, through the Public Works Loan Board [PWL] or the money markets), or utilising temporary cash resources within the Council.

Reducing the CFR – the Council's (non HRA) underlying borrowing need (CFR) is not allowed to rise indefinitely. Statutory controls are in place to ensure that capital assets are broadly charged to revenue over the life of the asset. The Council is required to make an annual revenue charge, called the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP), to reduce the CFR. This is effectively a repayment of the non-Housing Revenue Account (HRA) borrowing need (there is no statutory requirement to reduce the HRA CFR). This differs from the treasury management arrangements which ensure that cash is available to meet capital commitments. External debt can also be borrowed or repaid at any time, but this does not change the CFR.

The total CFR can also be reduced by:

the application of additional capital financing resources (such as unapplied capital receipts); or

charging more than the statutory revenue charge (MRP) each year through a Voluntary Revenue Provision (VRP).

The Council's 2018/19 MRP Policy (as required by MHCLG Guidance) was approved as part of the Treasury Management Strategy Report for 2018/19 on 27th February 2018.

The Council's CFR for General Fund and the HRA for the year are shown below, and represent a key prudential indicator.

CFR: General Fund	31st March 2018 Actual £m	31st March 2019 Budget £m	31st March 2019 Actual £m
Opening balance	0.943	0.885	0.885
Add unfinanced capital expenditure (as above)	-	1.766	-
Less MRP/VRP	(0.058)	(0.104)	(0.057)
Less PFI & finance lease repayments	-	-	-
Closing balance	0.885	2.547	0.828

CFR: HRA	31st March 2018 Actual £m	31st March 2019 Budget £m	31st March 2019 Actual £m
Opening balance	68.041	68.041	68.041
Add unfinanced capital expenditure (as above)	-	7.214	-
Less MRP/VRP	-	-	-
Less PFI & finance lease repayments	-	-	-
Closing balance	68.041	75.255	68.041

Borrowing activity is constrained by prudential indicators for net borrowing and the CFR, and by the authorised limit.

Gross borrowing and the CFR - in order to ensure that borrowing levels are prudent over the medium term and only for a capital purpose, the Council should ensure that its gross external borrowing does not, except in the short term, exceed the total of the capital financing requirement in the preceding year (2017/18) plus the estimates of any additional capital financing requirement for the current (2018/19) and next two financial years. This essentially means that the Council is not borrowing to support revenue expenditure. This indicator allowed the Council some flexibility to borrow in advance of its immediate capital needs in 2018/19. The table below highlights the Council's gross borrowing position against the CFR. The Council has complied with this prudential indicator.

Gross borrowing and the CFR	31st March 2018 Actual £m	31st March 2019 Budget £m	31st March 2019 Actual £m
Gross borrowing position	63.060	63.060	63.060
CFR	68.926	77.802	68.869

The Authorised Limit - the authorised limit is the “affordable borrowing limit” required by s3 of the Local Government Act 2003. Once this has been set, the Council does not have the power to borrow above this level. The table below demonstrates that during 2018/19 the Council has maintained gross borrowing within its authorised limit.

The Operational Boundary – the operational boundary is the expected borrowing position of the Council during the year. Periods where the actual position is either below or over the boundary are acceptable subject to the authorised limit not being breached.

Actual Financing Costs as a Proportion of Net Revenue Stream - this indicator identifies the trend in the cost of capital (borrowing and other long term obligation costs net of investment income) against the net revenue stream.

Borrowing Limits	GF £m	HRA £m	Total £m
Authorised limit	5.547	79.407	84.954
Maximum gross borrowing position	-	63.060	63.060
Operational boundary	-	63.060	63.060
Average gross borrowing position	-	63.060	63.060
Budgeted financing costs as a proportion of net revenue stream %	(2.55)	39.71	37.16
Actual financing costs as a proportion of net revenue stream %	(6.16)	29.17	23.02

3. Treasury Position as at 31st March 2019

The Council’s debt and investment position is organised by the treasury management service in order to ensure adequate liquidity for revenue and capital activities, security for investments and to manage risks within all treasury management activities. Procedures and controls to achieve these objectives are well established both through member reporting detailed in the summary, and through officer activity detailed in the Council’s Treasury Management Practices. At the beginning and the end of 2018/19 the Council’s treasury (excluding borrowing by finance leases) position was as follows:

General Fund	31st March 2018 Principal £m	Rate/ Return %	Average Life yrs	31st March 2019 Principal £m	Rate/ Return %	Average Life yrs
Total debt	-	-	-	-	-	-
CFR	0.885	-	-	0.828	-	-
Over / (under) borrowing	(0.885)	-	-	(0.828)	-	-
Investments:						
- in house	32.334	0.54	-	36.209	0.82	-
Total investments	32.334	0.54	-	36.209	0.82	-

HRA	31st March 2018 Principal £m	Rate/ Return %	Average Life yrs	31st March 2019 Principal £m	Rate/ Return %	Average Life yrs
Fixed rate funding:						
-PWLB	63.060	4.05	36.74	63.060	4.05	35.74
Total debt	63.060	4.05	36.74	63.060	4.05	35.74
CFR	68.041	-	-	68.041	-	-
Over / (under) borrowing	(4.981)	-	-	(4.981)	-	-
Investments:						
- in house	28.471	0.54	-	28.732	0.82	-
Total investments	28.471	0.540	-	28.732	0.82	-

Maturity Structures

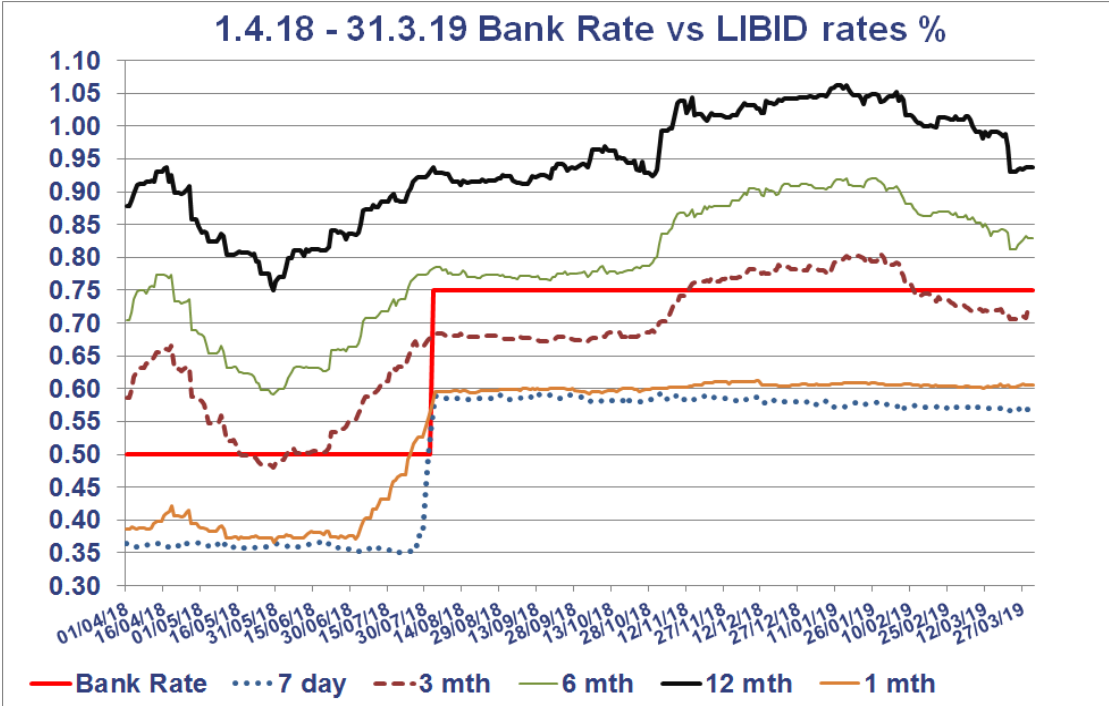
The maturity structure of the debt portfolio was as follows:

Duration	31st March 2018 Actual £m	2018/19 original limits %	31st March 2019 Actual £m
Under 12 months	-	20	-
12 months and within 24 months	-	20	-
24 months and within 5 years	-	25	-
5 years and within 10 years	-	75	-
10 years and within 20 years	5	100	5
20 years and within 30 years	-		-
30 years and within 40 years	30		39
40 years and within 50 years	28		19

All investments held by the Council were invested for up to one year, with the exception of £3.8m invested in property funds, which are held for the longer-term, 5 – 10 years.

4. The Strategy for 2018/19

4.1 Investment strategy and control of interest rate risk



Investment returns remained low during 2018/19. The expectation for interest rates within the treasury management strategy for 2018/19 was that Bank Rate would rise from 0.50% to 0.75%. At the start of 2018/19, and after UK GDP growth had proved disappointingly weak in the first few months of 2018, the expectation for the timing of this increase was pushed back from May to August 2018. Investment interest rates were therefore on a gently rising trend in the first half of the year after April, in anticipation that the MPC would raise Bank Rate in August. This duly happened at the MPC meeting on 2nd August 2018. During this period, investment decisions were influenced by anticipation that rates would be higher later in the year.

It was not expected that the MPC would raise Bank Rate again during 2018/19 after August in view of the fact that the UK was entering into a time of major uncertainty with Brexit due in March 2019. Value was therefore sought by placing longer term investments where cash balances were sufficient to allow this.

Investment rates were little changed during August to October but rose sharply after the MPC meeting of 1st November was unexpectedly hawkish about their perception of building inflationary pressures, particularly from rising wages. However, weak GDP growth data after December, plus increasing concerns generated by Brexit, resulted in investment rates falling back again.

Continued uncertainty in the aftermath of the 2008 financial crisis has promoted a cautious approach whereby investments would continue to be dominated by low counterparty risk considerations, resulting in relatively low returns compared to borrowing rates.

4.2 Borrowing strategy and control of interest rate risk

During 2018/19, the Council maintained an under-borrowed position. This meant that the capital borrowing need (the Capital Financing Requirement), was not fully funded with loan debt as cash supporting the Council's reserves, balances and cash flow was used as an interim measure. This strategy was prudent as investment returns were low and minimising counterparty risk on placing investments also needed to be considered.

A cost of carry remained during the year on any new long-term borrowing that was not immediately used to finance capital expenditure, as it would have caused a temporary increase in cash balances and incurred a revenue cost – the difference between (higher) borrowing costs and (lower) investment returns.

The policy of avoiding new borrowing by running down spare cash balances, has served well over the last few years. However, this was kept under review to avoid incurring higher borrowing costs in the future when the Council may not be able to avoid new borrowing to finance capital expenditure and/or the refinancing of maturing debt.

Against this background and the risks within the economic forecast, caution was adopted with the treasury operations. The Executive Director Finance therefore monitored interest rates in financial markets and adopted a pragmatic strategy based upon the following principles to manage interest rate risks

- if it had been felt that there was a significant risk of a sharp FALL in long and short term rates, (e.g. due to a marked increase of risks around relapse into recession or of risks of deflation), then long term borrowings would have been postponed, and potential rescheduling from fixed rate funding into short term borrowing would have been considered.
- if it had been felt that there was a significant risk of a much sharper RISE in long and short term rates than initially expected, perhaps arising from an acceleration in the start date and in the rate of increase in central rates in the USA and UK, an increase in world economic activity or a sudden increase in inflation risks, then the portfolio position would have been re-appraised. Most likely, fixed rate funding would have been drawn whilst interest rates were lower than they were projected to be in the next few years.

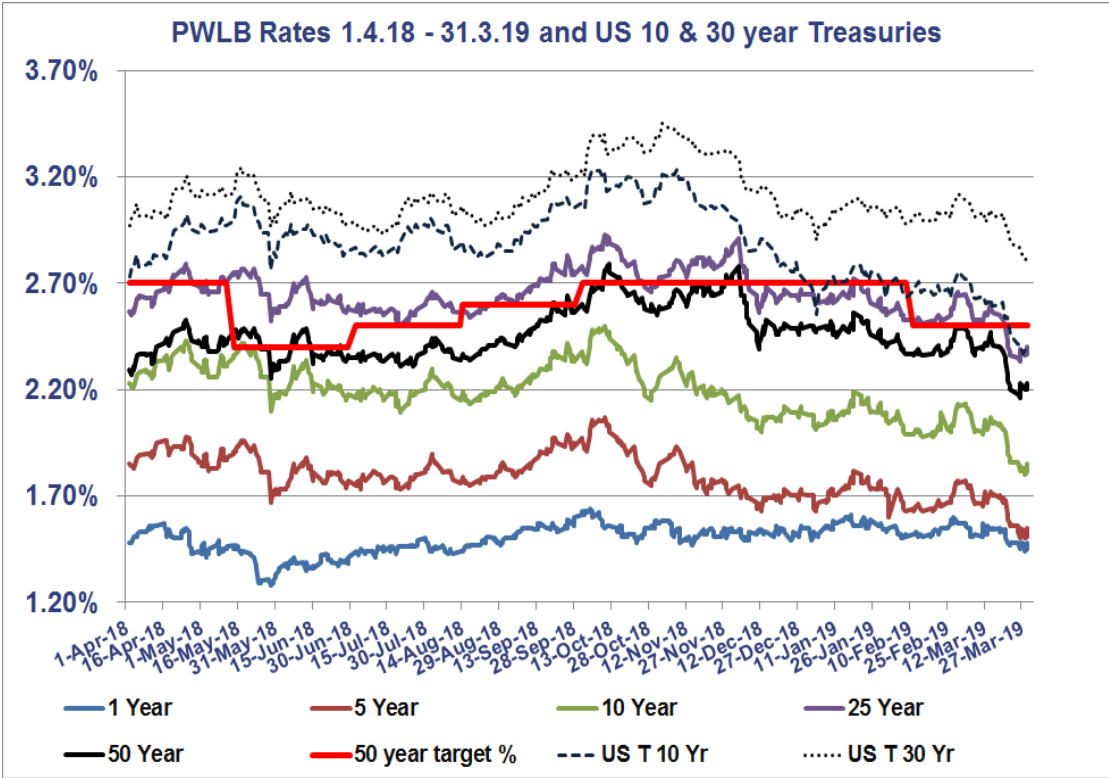
Interest rate forecasts expected only gradual rises in medium and longer term fixed borrowing rates during 2018/19 and the two subsequent financial years. Variable, or short-term rates, were expected to be the cheaper form of borrowing over the period.

PWLB Borrowing Rates

Since PWLB rates peaked during October 2018, most PWLB rates have been on a general downward trend, though longer term rates did spike upwards again during December, and, (apart from the 1 year rate), reached lows for the year at the end of March. There was a significant level of correlation between movements in US Treasury yields and UK gilt yields -which determine PWLB rates. The Fed in America increased the Fed Rate four times in 2018, making nine increases in all in this cycle, to reach 2.25% – 2.50% in December. However, it had been giving forward guidance that rates could go up to nearly 3.50%. These rate increases and guidance caused Treasury yields to also move up. However financial markets considered by December 2018, that the Fed had gone too far, and discounted its

expectations of further increases. Since then, the Fed has also come round to the view that there are probably going to be no more increases in this cycle. The issue now is how many cuts in the Fed Rate there will be and how soon, in order to support economic growth in the US. But weak growth now also looks to be the outlook for China and the EU so this will mean that world growth as a whole will be weak. Treasury yields have therefore fallen sharply during 2019 and gilt yields / PWLB rates have also fallen.

The graph and tables for PWLB rates below and in Appendix 2 show, for a selection of maturity periods, the average borrowing rates, the high and low points in rates, spreads and individual rates at the start and the end of the financial year.



5. Borrowing Outturn for 2018/19

Treasury Borrowing

Due to investment concerns, both counterparty risk and low investment returns, no borrowing was undertaken during the year.

Borrowing in Advance of Need

The Council has not borrowed more than, or in advance of, its needs, purely in order to profit from the investment of the extra sums borrowed.

Rescheduling

No rescheduling was done during the year as the average 1% differential between PWLB new borrowing rates and premature repayment rates made rescheduling unviable.

6. Investment Outturn for 2018/19

Investment Policy – the Council’s investment policy is governed by MHCLG guidance, which has been implemented in the annual investment strategy approved by the Council on 27th February 2018. This policy sets out the approach for choosing investment

counterparties, and is based on credit ratings provided by the three main credit rating agencies, supplemented by additional market data (such as rating outlooks, credit default swaps, bank share prices etc).

The investment activity during the year conformed to the approved strategy, and the Council had no liquidity difficulties.

Resources – the Council’s cash balances comprise revenue and capital resources and cash flow monies. The Council’s core cash resources comprised the following:

Balance Sheet Resources General Fund	31 st March 2018 £m	31 st March 2019 £m
Balances	6.918	6.113
Earmarked Reserves	5.888	7.951
Provisions	1.545	1.815
Usable Capital Receipts	17.001	17.656
Capital Grants Unapplied	0.048	0.048
Total GF	31.400	33.583

Balance Sheet Resources HRA	31 st March 2018 £m	31 st March 2019 £m
Balances	6.824	4.485
Earmarked Reserves	15.572	16.460
Provisions	-	-
Usable Capital Receipts	5.252	5.704
Total HRA	27.648	26.649

Total Authority Resources	59.048	60.232
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Investments held by the Council – the Council maintained an average balance of £66.3m of internally managed funds. The internally managed funds earned an average rate of return of 0.82%. The comparable performance indicator is the average 7-day LIBID rate which was 0.50%. This compared with a budget assumption of £54.2m investment balances earning an average rate of 0.50%.

7. Performance Measurement

One of the key requirements in the Code is the formal introduction of performance measurement relating to investments, debt and capital financing activities. Whilst investment performance criteria have been well developed and universally accepted, debt performance indicators continue to be a more problematic area with the traditional average portfolio rate of interest acting as the main guide (as incorporated in the table in section 3). The Council’s performance indicators were set out in the Annual Treasury Management Strategy Statement.

This service has set the following local performance indicator:

➤ *Average external interest receivable in excess of 3 month LIBID rate;*

Whilst the assumed benchmark for local authorities is the 7 day LIBID rate, a higher target is set for internal performance.

The actual return of 0.82% compared to the average 3 month LIBID of 0.68% (0.14% above target).

CIPFA Benchmarking Club

The Council is a member of the CIPFA Treasury Management Benchmarking Club which is a means to assess our performance for the year against other members.

8. The Economy and Interest Rates

UK. After weak **economic growth** of only 0.2% in quarter one of 2018, growth picked up to 0.4% in quarter 2 and to a particularly strong 0.7% in quarter 3, before cooling off to 0.2% in the final quarter. Given all the uncertainties over Brexit, this weak growth in the final quarter was to be expected. However, some recovery in the rate of growth is expected going forward. The annual growth in Q4 came in at 1.4% y/y confirming that the UK was the third fastest growing country in the G7 in quarter 4.

After the Monetary Policy Committee raised **Bank Rate** from 0.5% to 0.75% in August 2018, it is little surprise that they have abstained from any further increases since then. We are unlikely to see any further action from the MPC until the uncertainties over Brexit clear. If there were a disorderly exit, it is likely that Bank Rate would be cut to support growth. Nevertheless, the MPC has been having increasing concerns over the trend in **wage inflation** which peaked at a new post financial crisis high of 3.5%, (excluding bonuses), in the three months to December before falling only marginally to 3.4% in the three months to January. British employers ramped up their hiring at the fastest pace in more than three years in the three months to January as the country's labour market defied the broader weakness in the overall economy as Brexit approached. The number of people in work surged by 222,000, helping to push down the unemployment rate to 3.9 percent, its lowest rate since 1975. Correspondingly, the total level of vacancies has risen to new highs.

As for **CPI inflation** itself, this has been on a falling trend since peaking at 3.1% in November 2017, reaching a new low of 1.8% in January 2019 before rising marginally to 1.9% in February. However, in the February 2019 Bank of England Inflation Report, the latest forecast for inflation over both the two and three year time horizons remained marginally above the MPC's target of 2%.

The rise in wage inflation and fall in CPI inflation is good news for consumers as their spending power is improving in this scenario as the difference between the two figures is now around 1.5%, i.e. a real terms increase. Given the UK economy is very much services sector driven, an increase in **household spending power** is likely to feed through into providing some support to the overall rate of economic growth in the coming months.

Brexit. The Conservative minority government has so far been unable to muster a majority in the Commons over its Brexit deal. Currently there is a deadline of 31st October 2019 for the UK to leave the EU, however uncertainty remains around whether it is feasible for a new deal to be agreed with the EU, and approved by Parliament by the deadline, or whether the UK leaves without a deal, a course of action to which Parliament is unlikely to agree. If there is no majority for any form of Brexit in Parliament, this would increase the chances of a general election, which could result in a potential loosening of monetary policy and therefore medium to longer dated gilt yields could rise on the expectation of a weak pound and concerns around inflation picking up.

USA. President Trump's massive easing of fiscal policy in 2018 fuelled a (temporary) boost in consumption in 2018 which generated an upturn in the strong rate of growth; this rose from 2.2%, (annualised rate) in quarter 1 of 2018 to 4.2% in quarter 2, 3.5% in quarter 3 and then back to 2.2% in quarter 4. The annual rate came in at 2.9% for 2018, just below President Trump's aim for 3% growth. The strong growth in employment numbers has fed through to an upturn in wage inflation which hit 3.4% in February, a decade high point. However, CPI inflation overall fell to 1.5% in February, a two and a half year low, and looks to be likely to stay around that number in 2019 i.e. below the Fed's target of 2%. The Fed increased rates another 0.25% in December to between 2.25% and 2.50%, this being the fourth increase in 2018 and the ninth in the upward swing cycle. However, the Fed now appears to be edging towards a change of direction and admitting there may be a need to switch to taking action to cut rates over the next two years. Financial markets are now predicting two cuts of 25 bps by the end of 2020.

EUROZONE. The European Central Bank (ECB) provided massive monetary stimulus in 2016 and 2017 to encourage growth in the EZ and that produced strong annual growth in 2017 of 2.3%. However, since then the ECB has been reducing its monetary stimulus measures and growth has been weakening - to 0.4% in quarters 1 and 2 of 2018, and then slowed further to 0.2% in quarters 3 and 4; it is likely to be only 0.1 - 0.2% in quarter 1 of 2019. The annual rate of growth for 2018 was 1.8% but is expected to fall to possibly around half that rate in 2019. The ECB completely ended its programme of quantitative easing purchases of debt in December 2018, which means that the central banks in the US, UK and EU have all ended the phase of post financial crisis expansion of liquidity supporting world financial markets by purchases of debt. However, the downturn in growth, together with inflation falling well under the upper limit of its target range of 0 to 2%, (but it aims to keep it near to 2%), prompted the ECB to take new measures to stimulate growth. With its refinancing rate already at 0.0% and the deposit rate at -0.4%, it has probably reached the limit of cutting rates. At its March 2019 meeting it said that it expects to leave interest rates at their present levels "at least through the end of 2019", but that is of little help to boosting growth in the near term. Consequently, it also announced a third round of TLTROs; this provides banks with cheap borrowing every three months from September 2019 until March 2021 which means that, although they will have only a two-year maturity, the Bank is making funds available until 2023, two years later than under its previous policy. As with the last round, the new TLTROs will

include an incentive to encourage bank lending, and they will be capped at 30% of a bank's eligible loans.

CHINA. Economic growth has been weakening over successive years, despite repeated rounds of central bank stimulus; medium term risks are increasing. Major progress still needs to be made to eliminate excess industrial capacity and the stock of unsold property, and to address the level of non-performing loans in the banking and credit systems.

JAPAN - has been struggling to stimulate consistent significant GDP growth and to get inflation up to its target of 2%, despite huge monetary and fiscal stimulus. It is also making little progress on fundamental reform of the economy.

WORLD GROWTH. Equity markets are currently concerned about the synchronised general weakening of growth in the major economies of the world: they fear there could even be a recession looming up in the US, though this fear is probably overdone.

9. Other Issues

International Financial Reporting Standard (IFRS) 9 – Financial Instruments.

The 2018/19 Accounting Code of Practice introduced changes in way investments are valued and disclosed in the Council's Statement of Accounts. Key considerations are:-

- Expected credit loss model. Whilst not material for vanilla treasury investments such as bank deposits, this does impact our investment in property funds
- The valuation of investments previously valued under the available for sale category e.g. equity related to the "commercialism" agenda, property funds, equity funds and similar, will be changed to **Fair Value through the Profit and Loss (FVPL)**.

Following the consultation undertaken by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, [MHCLG], on IFRS9 the Government has introduced a mandatory statutory override for local authorities to reverse out all unrealised fair value movements resulting from pooled investment funds. This is effective from 1st April 2018, and applies for five years from this date. Local authorities are required to disclose the net impact of the unrealised fair value movements in a separate unusable reserve throughout the duration of the override in order for the Government to keep the override under review and to maintain a form of transparency.

Investment in Property Funds

Investment in property funds was included within the Commercial Investment and Regeneration Strategy, with the aim of generating improved returns of c.4-5% p.a. (plus asset growth) being long term investments of between 5 – 10 years (minimum) in order to make the necessary returns (after set up costs).

Utilising the capital receipt proceeds of the sale of the Golf Course, a budget of £12m was allocated to long-term investment in a number of property funds. During 2017/18, the Council undertook a Property Fund Manager selection exercise, appointing Link Asset Services to provide support and advice in the identification and selection of suitable UK-focussed property funds. Full details of the selection process

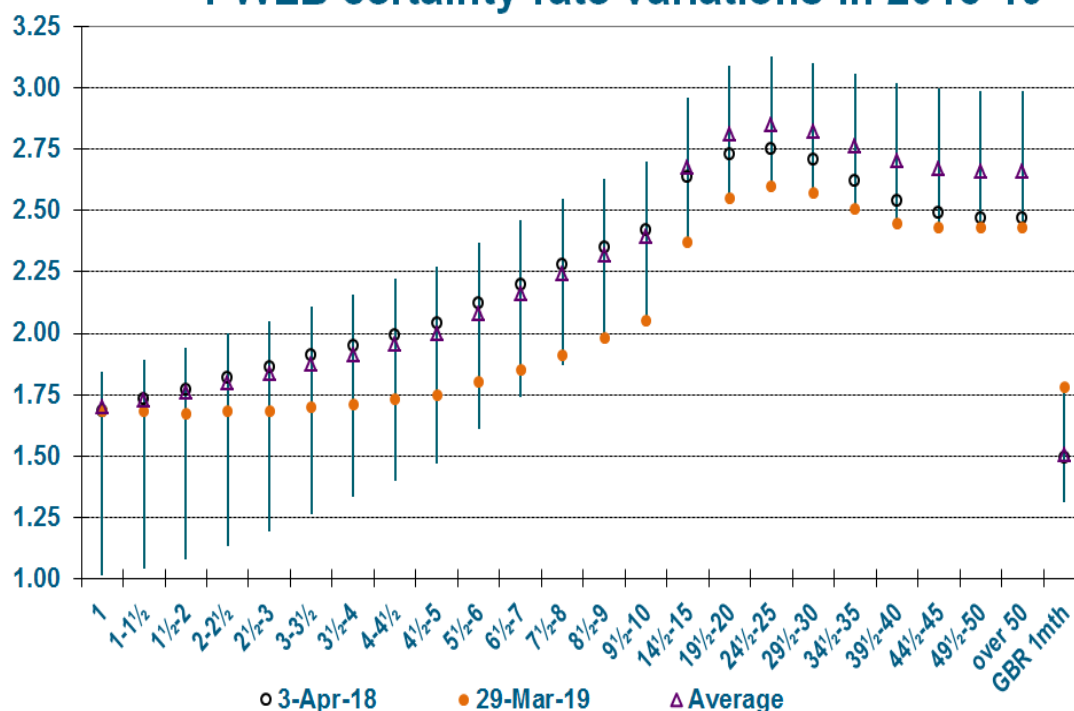
were included in Link Asset Services' report presented to Members 21st February 2018.

To date, the Council has invested £1.85m with Schroders UK Real Estate Fund and £2m with Threadneedle Property Unit Trust, total investment £3.85m with an estimated return of 4% plus any longer-term capital growth. The MTFs includes budgeted income of £480k pa from 2020/21 arising from investment of the full £12m budgeted, however, due to recent uncertainty around arrangements for Brexit and the associated impact on the economy, it was decided during the year to delay any further investment in property funds until there is more clarity.

1. PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS	2017/18	2018/19	2018/19
Extract from budget and rent setting report	Actual	Original	Actual
Capital Expenditure	£m	£m	£m
Non - HRA	1.545	12.932	10.515
HRA	7.655	30.396	9.266
TOTAL	9.200	43.328	19.781
Ratio of financing costs to net revenue stream	%	%	%
Non - HRA	(2.84)	(2.55)	(6.16)
HRA	38.19	39.71	29.17
Gross borrowing requirement General Fund	£m	£m	£m
brought forward 1 April	-	-	-
carried forward 31 March	-	-	-
in year borrowing requirement	-	1.766	-
Gross borrowing requirement HRA	£m	£m	£m
brought forward 1 April	63.060	55.846	63.060
carried forward 31 March	63.060	63.060	63.060
in year borrowing requirement	-	7.214	-
	£m	£m	£m
Gross debt	63.060	63.060	63.060
Capital Financing Requirement	£m	£m	£m
Non – HRA	0.885	2.547	0.828
HRA	68.041	75.255	68.041
TOTAL	68.926	77.802	68.869
Annual change in Capital Financing Requirement	£m	£m	£m
Non – HRA	(0.058)	(0.104)	(0.057)
HRA	-	7.214	-
TOTAL	(0.058)	7.110	(0.057)

2. TREASURY MANAGEMENT INDICATORS	2017/18	2018/19	2018/19
	Actual	Original	Actual
	£m	£m	£m
Authorised Limit for external debt - General Fund			
borrowing	4.885	5.547	5.547
other long term liabilities	-	-	-
TOTAL	4.885	5.547	5.547
Authorised Limit for external debt - HRA			
borrowing	79.407	79.407	79.407
other long term liabilities	-	-	-
TOTAL	79.407	79.407	79.407
Operational Boundary for external debt - General Fund	£m	£m	£m
borrowing	0.000	0.000	0.000
other long term liabilities	-	-	-
TOTAL	0.000	0.000	0.000
Operational Boundary for external debt - HRA	£m	£m	£m
borrowing	65.060	63.060	63.060
other long term liabilities	-	-	-
TOTAL	65.060	63.060	63.060
Actual external debt	£m	£m	£m
	63.060	63.060	63.060
Maximum HRA debt limit	£m	£m	£m
	79.407	79.407	79.407

PWLB certainty rate variations in 2018-19



	1 Year	5 Year	10 Year	25 Year	50 Year
02/04/2018	1.48%	1.85%	2.23%	2.57%	2.29%
29/03/2019	1.48%	1.55%	1.85%	2.40%	2.23%
Low	1.28%	1.50%	1.80%	2.33%	2.16%
Date	29/05/2018	26/03/2019	28/03/2019	26/03/2019	26/03/2019
High	1.64%	2.07%	2.50%	2.93%	2.79%
Date	04/10/2018	10/10/2018	10/10/2018	10/10/2018	12/10/2018
Average	1.50%	1.80%	2.20%	2.66%	2.47%

Money market investment rates 2018/19

	Bank Rate	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
01/04/2018	0.50	0.36	0.39	0.59	0.70	0.88
31/03/2019	0.75	0.57	0.61	0.72	0.83	0.94
High	0.75	0.59	0.61	0.81	0.92	1.06
High Date	02/08/2018	01/11/2018	10/12/2018	29/01/2019	15/01/2019	11/01/2019
Low	0.50	0.35	0.37	0.48	0.59	0.75
Low Date	01/04/2018	19/07/2018	30/05/2018	30/05/2018	30/05/2018	30/05/2018
Average	0.67	0.51	0.54	0.68	0.79	0.94
Spread	0.25	0.24	0.25	0.33	0.33	0.31

TUESDAY, 10 SEPTEMBER 2019

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

TAMWORTH PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCY - REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICTS, POLLING PLACES AND POLLING STATIONS

EXEMPT INFORMATION

None

PURPOSE

In accordance with the Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013, every council in England and Wales must undertake and complete a review of all of the polling district and polling places in its area.

Guidance produced by the Electoral Commission sets out the process for a review, and this has been followed.

Appendix A to this report provides a list of the recommended polling districts, polling places and polling stations, showing the changes which have been made since the last review.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:

1. That the Council adopts the polling districts and polling places as listed in **Appendix A** to this report.
2. That the Council sets the polling place as the polling district plus any adjacent polling district(s).
3. That the Council notes the polling stations proposed by the Returning Officer as listed in **Appendix A** to this report.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013 (ERA 2013) introduced a change to the timing of compulsory reviews of UK Parliamentary polling districts and polling places. It stipulates that the next compulsory review must be completed between 1 October 2018 and 31 January 2020 (inclusive).

The review process began with the publication of the Notice of Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places 2019. Notices were placed on the council's website, council offices and library along with press releases inviting electors to submit comments. The associated consultation period ran from Tuesday 28 May to Friday 19 July. Potentially interested organisations were written to along with local political parties. **Appendix B** outlines the organisations and individuals contacted. Regard was given to those with specific experience of assessing access for persons with different disabilities. During the consultation period 42 submissions were received covering the 10 wards of the Borough. These are summarised in **Appendix C**.

The Borough of Tamworth is currently divided into 48 polling districts covered by 57 polling stations. Polling districts, the geographic subdivisions of each wards, as well as polling places for each of these districts were within the scope of this review. The review considered the continued suitability of existing arrangements and where necessary, has made proposals for:

- The creation or removal of polling districts;
- “Change” or “no change” to the boundaries of polling districts;
- “Change” or “no change” to the referencing of those polling districts;
- “Change” or “no change” to the polling stations within those polling districts.

Borough ward boundaries, county council boundaries and parliamentary constituency boundaries were not in the scope of this review. The legislation requires that ward/county boundaries are reviewed by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England and the Electoral Commission and not by Local Authorities themselves. We do not have a mandate to suggest alterations to the boundaries between wards.

The review therefore, did not consider comments regarding local authority boundaries, neighbouring parliamentary constituencies, the name of local authority or other electoral areas within or bordering Tamworth Borough Council.

Following the conclusion of the review, certain persons have a right of appeal and may make such representations to the Electoral Commission. If, on receipt of such representations, it is found that a local authority’s review did not:

- meet the reasonable requirements of the electors in the constituency, or a body of them, or
- take sufficient account of the accessibility for disabled persons of a polling station/ polling stations within a designated polling place

then the Electoral Commission may direct the authority to make any alterations that they think are necessary and, if the alterations are not made within two months, the Electoral Commission may make the alterations themselves.

The terms used as part of this report and their meaning can be found in **Appendix D**.

OPTIONS CONSIDERED

As set out in **Appendix A**.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications as a result of this report. However, should an appeal be received there may be a financial risk to the Authority.

LEGAL/RISK IMPLICATIONS BACKGROUND

The review is a statutory obligation and has been conducted in accordance with the necessary legislation.

EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

Accessibility in regard to polling stations is a key factor that has been taken into account when deciding on suitable polling locations.

The completed Community Impact Assessment can be found in **Appendix E**.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

These have been considered as part of the review along with disability and equality legislation in order to arrive at the recommendations given in the report.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

In accordance with the requirements set out in legislation a full review of the polling districts, polling places and polling stations has been carried out.

REPORT AUTHOR

Bernie Flanagan – Senior Elections Officer

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

Representation of the People Act 1983

Electoral Administration Act 2006

Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013

Electoral Commission - Review of polling districts, polling places and polling stations

Polls Apart 2010 – Opening elections to disabled people

APPENDICES

Appendix A – Recommendations by Ward

- Amington Ward
- Belgrave Ward
- Bolehall Ward
- Castle Ward
- Glascote Ward
- Mercian Ward
- Spital Ward
- Stonydelph Ward
- Trinity Ward
- Wilnecote Ward

Appendix B – List of Consultees

Appendix C – Summary of Submissions Received with Acting Returning Officer's comments

Appendix D – Glossary of Terms

Appendix E – Community Impact Assessment

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Polling Districts, Places and Stations Review 2019

Recommendations Report

Introduction

Local Authorities must comply with a number of legislative requirements regarding the location and accessibility of Polling Districts and Polling Places. The mandatory review process comprises a number of specified steps set out in Schedule A1 to the Representation of the People Act 1983, which includes a public consultation.

The last review for Tamworth Borough Council was conducted in 2013. A full polling place and polling district review commenced on Tuesday 28 May and ended on Friday 19 July.

The review considered any representations from local residents and stakeholders in the borough, including any issues regarding access to premises or facilities for persons with disabilities. Any elector could make their views known and the process for doing so was publicised. In addition, the review considered the impact of the next four years' worth of planned residential developments.

In encouraging views, it is of course the case that the availability of suitable polling places is the key determining factor in the makeup of polling districts. Therefore, in asking for comments, we requested that alternative proposals should include suggestions for polling station locations.

It is the Returning Officer's role to select the polling stations. It will be Full Council which will make the decisions on any proposed changes to polling districts or polling places. The final scheme for polling arrangements will be adopted in accordance with the Council's constitution.

The polling districts, polling places and polling stations finally decided on will be in use for any polls called after 1 December 2019.

Scope of the review

Tamworth is currently divided into 48 polling districts covered by 57 polling stations. Polling districts, the geographic subdivisions of each ward, as well as polling places for each of these districts were within the scope of this review. The review considered the continued suitability of existing arrangements and, where necessary, will make proposals for: "Change" or "no change" to the polling stations within those districts.

- The creation or removal of polling districts;
- "Change" or "no change" to the boundaries of polling districts;
- "Change" or "no change" to the referencing of those polling districts;
- "Change" or "no change" to the polling stations within those polling districts.

Not in scope

Borough ward boundaries, county council boundaries and parliamentary constituency boundaries were not in the scope of this review.

The legislation requires that ward/county boundaries are reviewed by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England and the Electoral Commission and not by Local Authorities themselves. We do not have a mandate to suggest alterations to the boundaries between wards.

The review did not consider comments regarding local authority boundaries, neighbouring parliamentary constituencies, the name of local authorities or other electoral areas within or bordering Tamworth Borough Council.

Glossary of Terms

Polling District

A polling district is a geographical subdivision of an electoral area. For example a parliamentary constituency or a borough ward.

Polling Place

A polling place is the area in which the Returning Officer selects the polling station. In Tamworth, it is recommended that polling places represent the same area as the polling district plus the adjoining polling district(s) to allow a greater degree of flexibility in deciding where a polling station should be located.

Polling Station

The polling station is the room or building where the poll takes place. This location is selected by the Returning Officer.

Accessing information

The report presents information for each ward of the borough. These are presented in alphabetical as follows:

- Amington
- Belgrave
- Bolehall
- Castle
- Glascote
- Mercian
- Spital
- Stonydelph
- Trinity
- Wilnecote

In order to illustrate those recommendations for each ward, maps of the existing arrangements as well as maps of our proposed arrangements are available on our polling station page:

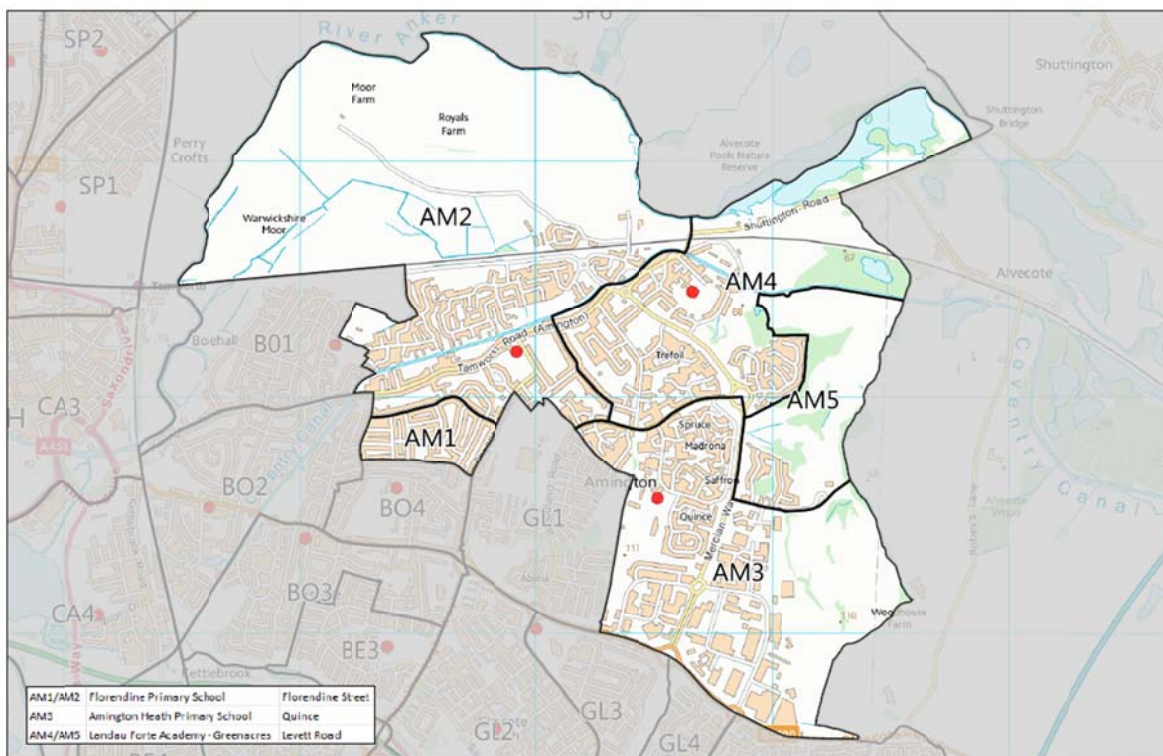
http://www.tamworth.gov.uk/Polling_District_and_Places_review_2019

In the polling district information tables provided for each ward, the word “Electorate” refers to the total number of registered voters in the district, as of July 2019.

In the polling station information tables provided for each ward, the expression “Polling Station Electorate” refers to the total number of registered voters in the district who have opted to attend a polling station to vote, as of July 2019. This figure excludes electors from the district who may have opted to vote by other means. This figure informs us of the maximum number of electors who may attend the polling station on polling day.

Amington Ward

Existing Polling Districts



Polling District	Polling Station	Electorate	Recommendations
AM1	Florendine Primary School	610	Change - Amend polling district boundaries to better reflect natural geography and other existing boundaries in the area.
AM2	Florendine Primary School	2,252	Change - Amend polling district boundaries to better reflect natural geography and other existing boundaries in the area.
AM3	Amington Heath Primary School	1,442	No change
AM4	Landau Forte Greenacres	1,618	No change
AM5	Landau Forte Greenacres	344	No change

Existing Polling Stations

Polling Station	Polling District	Polling Station Electorate	Disabled Access	Recommendations
Florendine Primary School	AM1	425	Yes	No change
Florendine Primary School	AM2	1,795	Yes	No change
Amington Heath Primary School	AM3	1,318	Yes	No change
Landau Forte Academy - Greenacres	AM4	1,328	Yes	No change
Landau Forte Academy - Greenacres	AM5	274	Yes	No change

Recommendations

Following on from submissions received during the consultation period it is recommended that a small alteration to the boundaries between polling districts AM1 and AM2 be completed. This small change would not require an alteration to the current polling place but would better align the polling districts when taking into account the natural geography of the area and current ward boundaries.

This means that the following streets would move from polling district AM2 to polling district AM1:

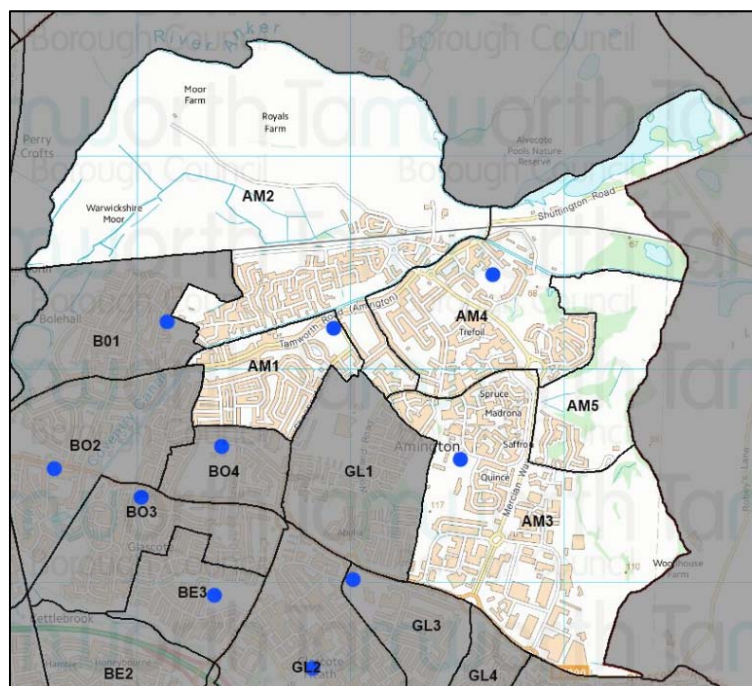
- Arden Close
- Argyle Street - Numbers 114 to 120 (evens)
- Beechwood Crescent
- Bridge Street
- Fairview Close
- Florendine Street
- Highfield Avenue
- Monks Way
- Sheepcote Lane – Numbers 105 – 117 (odds) and Numbers 156 to 168 (evens)
- Tamworth Road – Numbers 1 – 159 (odds) and 20 – 128 (evens). This is the section of Tamworth Road running from Argyle Street up to the canal bridge opposite Florendine Street)
- The Riddings
- Wesley Way
- Woodhurst Close

The remaining submissions relate to using school premises as a polling station. It should be noted that although the Amington Ward currently uses three schools as polling stations the head teachers are informed of scheduled polls several years in advance thus allowing ample time to plan for a Teacher Training Inset Day. This should help keep disruption and inconvenience to a minimum. Whilst head teachers must provide the Returning Officer with a suitable room to facilitate voting it is not the Returning Officer who chooses to close the school. This is a decision taken by the head teacher and in fact a number of schools that are used as polling stations throughout the borough remain either fully or partially open on polling days.

Schools are required under statute to be made available for voting purposes. This is partly due to the fact that as a public building the access must meet all requirements set out in the Equality Act 2010. Accessibility for disabled voters is a very important issue and ensuring that polling stations are suitable for all sorts of disability is essential. According to statistics provided by Staffordshire Observatory there are approximately 7,000 people within the borough who have mobility issues and an unknown number of people with other impediments. We must be very careful about not accidentally disenfranchising an elector as they are unable to access voting facilities easily. Section 16 of the Electoral Administration Act 2006 has placed a requirement on the local authority to review the accessibility of all polling stations. A review is undertaken at every poll and a polling station questionnaire is available for completion by electors. No complaints have been received at any of the recent elections in regard to accessibility issues in the Amington Ward. Therefore, no changes are proposed to any of the polling stations currently used.

Finally it is recommended that the polling place represent the same area as the polling district plus the adjoining polling district(s) to allow a greater degree of flexibility in deciding where a polling station should be located should the need arise.

Summary of proposed new Polling Districts and Polling Stations



<i>New Polling District</i>	<i>Proposed Polling Station</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Estimated Electorate¹</i>	<i>Estimated Polling Station Electorate²</i>	<i>No of polling stations</i>
AM1	Florendine Primary School	Florendine Street, Amington, Tamworth, B77 3DD	1971	1,616	1
AM2	Florendine Primary School	Florendine Street, Amington, Tamworth, B77 3DD	2007	1,646	1
AM3	Amington Heath Primary School	Quince, Amington, Tamworth, B77 4EN	1846	1,514	1
AM4/AM5	Landau Forte Academy - Greenacres	Levett Road, Amington, Tamworth, B77 4AB	2272	1,863	2
AM5	Landau Forte Greenacres	Levett Road, Amington, Tamworth, B77 4AB	2,860 ³	2,345	Combined with one of the polling stations in AM4

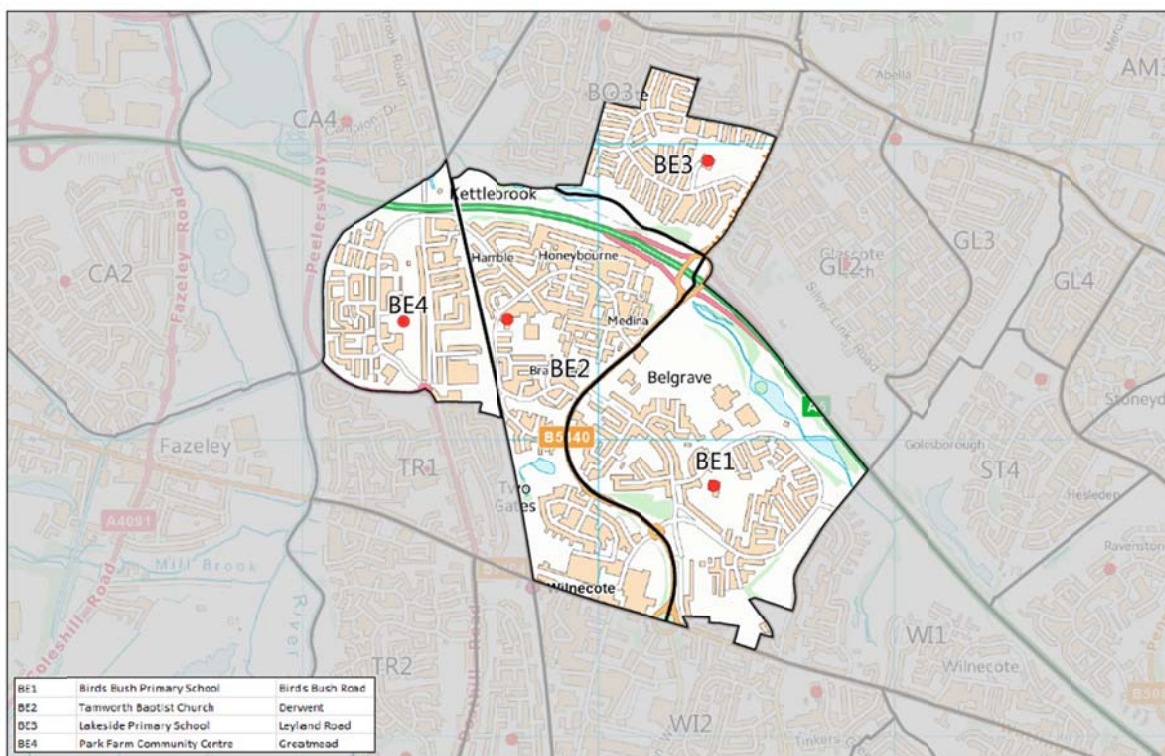
¹ Estimated Electorate = Number of Properties x 2.6

² Based on the average of 82% of electors choosing to attend a polling station.

³ The estimated electorate figures are based on completion of building works = estimated number of properties x 2.6. The estimated Polling station electorate is based on 18% of electorate opting to vote by post. The electorate in this area will be monitored and when required a polling place within the polling district or adjacent polling districts will be found. Currently, the electorate in the area is 344 with 274 electors opting to cast their vote in a polling station.

Belgrave Ward

Existing Polling Districts



<i>Polling District</i>	<i>Polling Station</i>	<i>Electorate</i>	<i>Recommendations</i>
BE1	Birds Bush Primary School	1,429	Change Add the properties built on the former Daltons Site to polling district BE1.
BE2	Tamworth Baptist Church	2,023	Change - Remove the properties built on the former Daltons Site and add to polling district BE1.
BE3	Lakeside Primary School	986	No change
BE4	Park Farm Community Centre	1,377	No change

Existing Polling Stations

<i>Polling Station</i>	<i>Polling District</i>	<i>Polling Station Electorate</i>	<i>Disabled Access</i>	<i>Recommendations</i>
Birds Bush Primary School	BE1	1,230	Yes	No change
Tamworth Baptist Church	BE2	1,742	Yes	Add the properties built on the former Daltons Site to polling district BE1.
Lakeside Primary School	BE3	815	Yes	No change
Park Farm Community Centre	BE4	1,172	Yes	No change

Recommendations

As the development off Marlborough Way on the former Daltons Site has grown considerably since the last review it is recommended to move this housing estate into the BE1 polling district. This would mean that the following streets would move from the BE2 polling district into the BE1 polling district:

- Garten Close
- Gowen Close
- Harport Close
- Harrow Close
- Laggan Close
- Leven Road
- Lindores Road
- Lowes Drive
- Lyon Drive
- Maree Walk
- Morton Close

The remaining submissions relate to using school premises as polling stations. It should be noted that although the Belgrave Ward currently uses two schools as polling stations the head teachers are informed of scheduled polls several years in advance thus allowing ample time to plan for a Teacher Training Inset Day. This should help keep disruption and inconvenience to a minimum. Whilst head teachers must provide Returning Officers with a suitable room to facilitate voting it is not the Returning Officer who chooses to close the school. This is a decision taken by the head teacher and in fact a number of schools that are used as polling stations throughout the borough remain either fully or partially open on polling days.

Schools are required under statute to be made available for voting purposes. This is partly due to the fact that as a public building the access must meet all requirements set out in the Equality Act 2010. Accessibility for disable voters is a very important issue and ensuring that the polling stations are suitable for all sorts of disability is essential. According to statistics provided by Staffordshire Observatory there are approximately 7,000 people within the borough who have mobility issues and an unknown number of people with other impediments. We must be very careful about not accidentally disenfranchising an elector as they are unable to access voting facilities easily. Section 16 of the Electoral Administration Act 2006 has placed a requirement on the local authority to review the accessibility of all polling stations. This review is undertaken at every poll and includes a polling station questionnaire that electors can complete if they wish to. No complaints have been received at the recent elections in regard to accessibility issues. Therefore, no changes are proposed to the current polling stations.

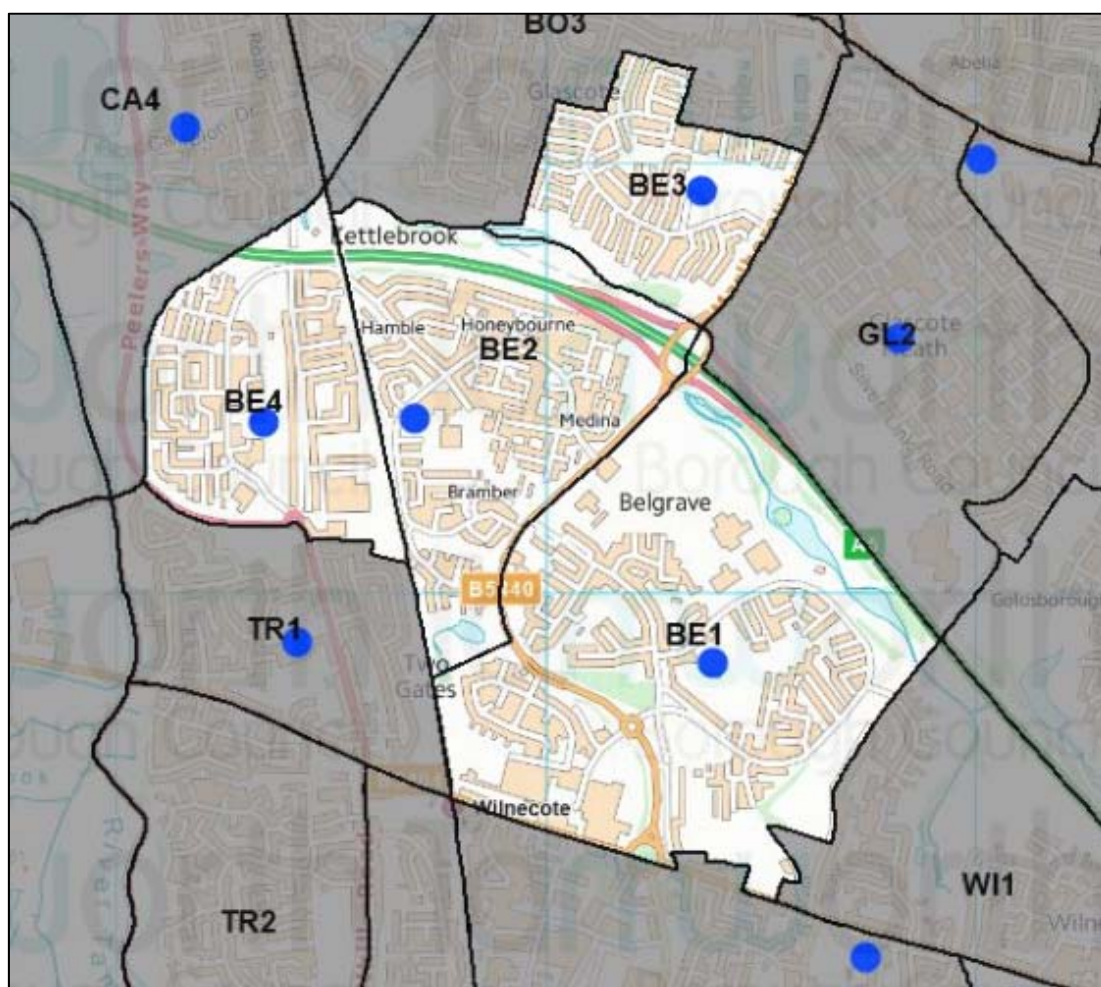
Perhaps the most fundamental point to make here is that there is no such thing within the borough or possibly the country as a purpose built polling station. Secondly, none are owned/under the control of the Returning Officer but are instead hired for the day of poll. The premises that are used within the borough range from church halls, schools, to community centres and finally temporary stations. It is important to remember the elector when selecting suitable premises for the poll. This can at times cause conflict between what premises are available and providing a fully accessible polling station that is convenient to use.

The Representation of the People Act 1983 places an obligation on local authorities, so far as reasonable and practicable, to designate polling places that are accessible to disabled people and keep them under review. When selecting a polling place it is essential that regard should be given to ensure it offers accessibility for disabled people as stated by the Equalities and Human Rights Commission. If the Authority was to move away from a perfectly accessible building in favour of a temporary station so that the location is slightly more convenient it could open the door for a claim regarding disability discrimination.

Postal voting is not the answer to this issue. Postal voting still remains inaccessible to many disabled electors, particularly those with visual impairments, dexterity issues, learning difficulties and low literacy. Postal voting should be a choice, not the only option.

Finally it is recommended that polling place represents the same area as the polling district plus the adjoining polling district(s) to allow a greater degree of flexibility in deciding where a polling station should be located should the need arise.

Summary of proposed new Polling Districts and Polling Stations



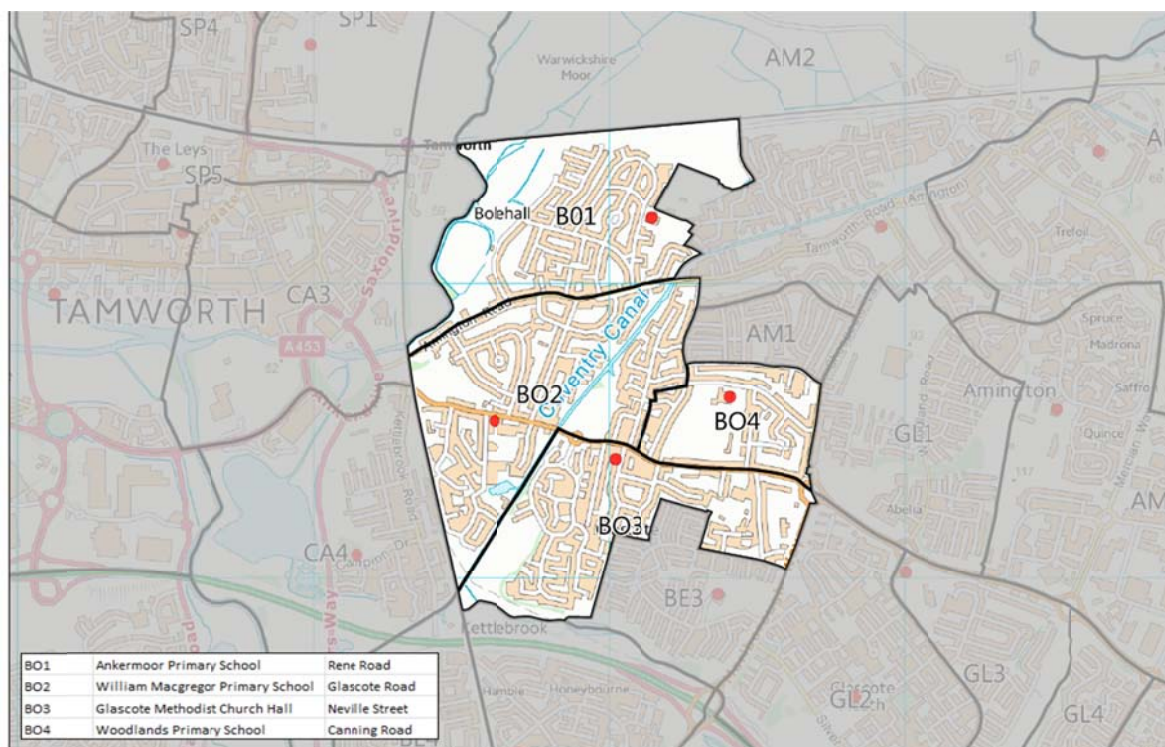
<i>New Polling District</i>	<i>Proposed Polling Station</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Estimated Electorate¹</i>	<i>Estimated Polling Station Electorate²</i>	<i>No of polling stations</i>
BE1	Birds Bush Primary School	Birds Bush Road, Belgrave, B77 2NE	2,688	2,204	2
BE2	Tamworth Baptist Church	Derwent, Off Field Farm Road, B77 2LD	2,254	1,848	2
BE3	Lakeside Primary School	Leyland Road, Glascoth, B77 2SA	1,334	1,094	1
BE4	Park Farm Community Centre	Greatmead, Kettlebrook, B77 1DL	1,940	1,590	1

¹ Estimated Electorate = Number of Properties x 2.6

² Based on the average of 82% of electors choosing to attend a polling station.

Bolehall Ward

Existing Polling Districts



<i>Polling District</i>	<i>Polling Station</i>	<i>Electorate</i>	<i>Recommendations</i>
BO1	Ankermoor Primary School	1,277	No change
BO2	William Macgregor Primary School	2,232	No change
BO3	Glascote Methodist Church	1,441	No change
BO4	Woodlands Primary School	766	No change

Existing Polling Stations

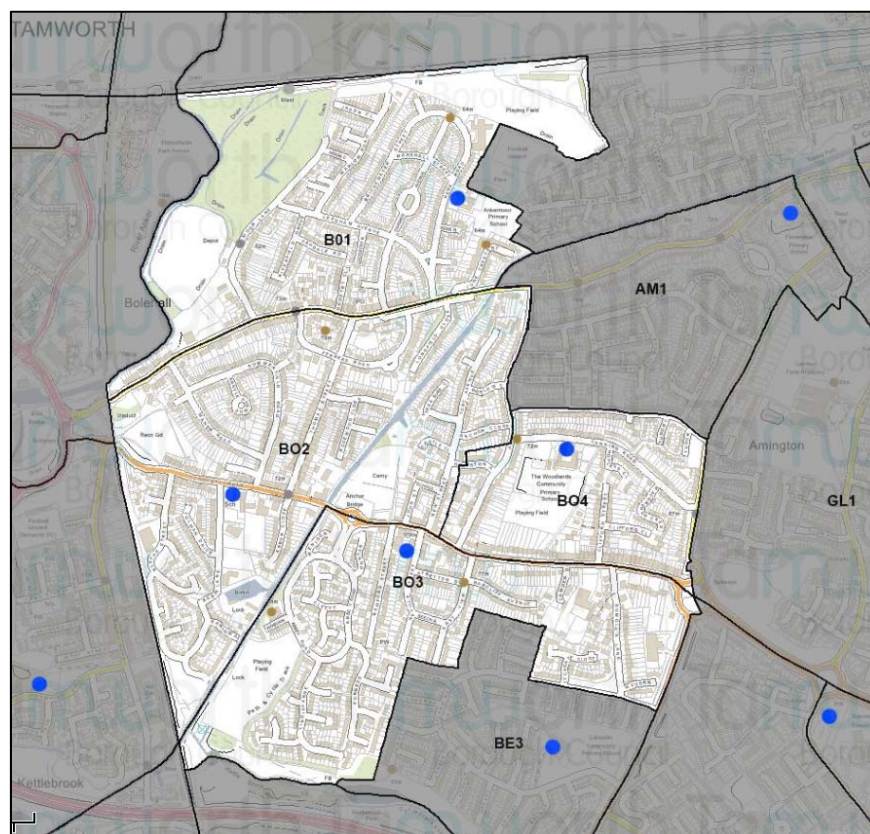
<i>Polling Station</i>	<i>Polling District</i>	<i>Polling Station Electorate</i>	<i>Disabled Access</i>	<i>Recommendations</i>
Ankermoor Primary School	BO1	1,062	Yes	No change
William Macgregor Primary School	BO2	1,887	Yes	No change
Glascote Methodist Church	BO3	1,249	Yes	No change
Woodlands Primary School	BO4	620	Yes	No change

Recommendations

No alternatives to the current polling district and polling place scheme were suggested as part of the consultation. No complaints have been received from any electors regarding the provision of polling places or the polling station facilities provided. Therefore, it is recommended that no changes are made to the polling districts within the Bolehall Ward.

It is also recommended that polling place represent the same area as the polling district plus the adjoining polling district(s) to allow a greater degree of flexibility in deciding where a polling station should be located should the need arise.

Summary of proposed new Polling Districts and Polling Stations



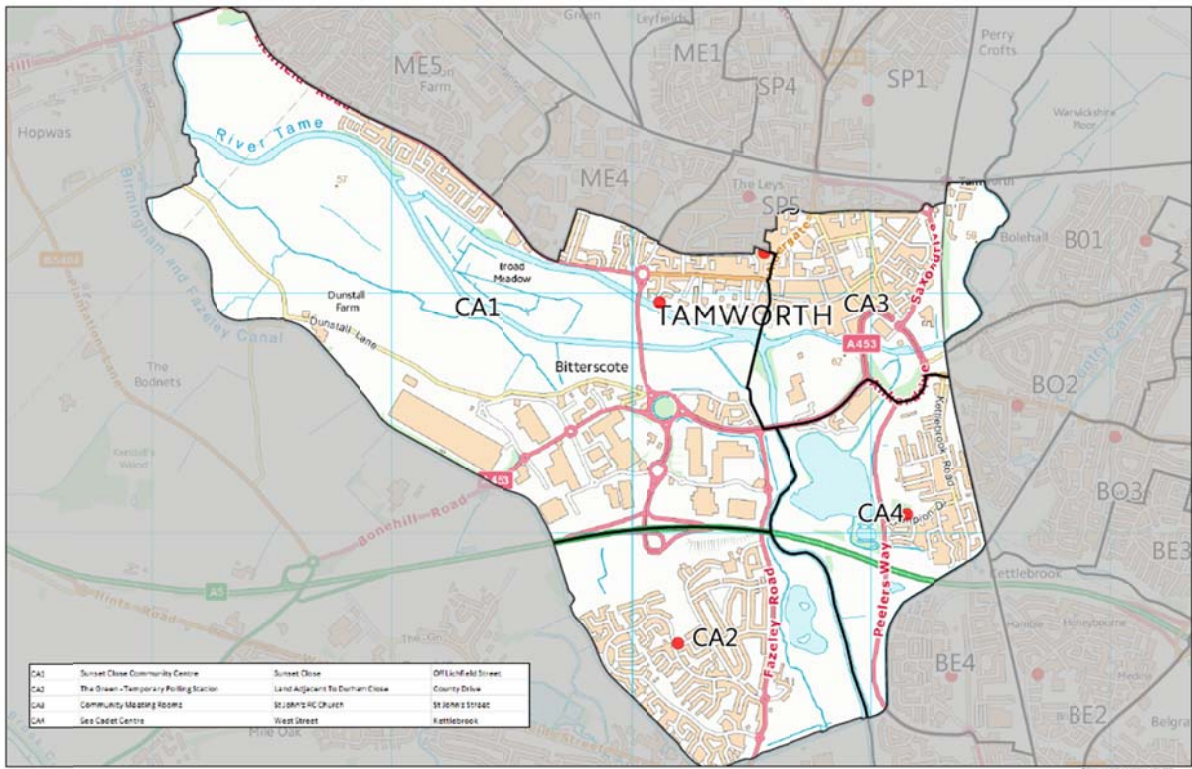
<i>New Polling District</i>	<i>Proposed Polling Station</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Estimated Electorate¹</i>	<i>Estimated Polling Station Electorate²</i>	<i>No of polling stations</i>
BO1	Ankermoor Primary School	Ankermoor Primary School, Rene Road, Bolehall, B77 3NW	1,281	1,073	1
BO2	William Macgregor Primary School	William Macgregor Primary School, Glascote Road, Tamworth, B77 2AF	2,224	1,884	2
BO3	Glascote Methodist Church	William Macgregor Primary School, Glascote Road, Tamworth, B77 2AF	1,432	1,243	1
BO4	Woodlands Primary School	Glascote Methodist Church Hall, Neville Street, Glascote, B77 2BA	7,65	6,21	1

¹ Estimated Electorate = Number of Properties x 2.6

² Based on the average of 82% of electors choosing to attend a polling station.

Castle Ward

Existing Polling Districts



<i>Polling District</i>	<i>Polling Station</i>	<i>Electorate</i>	<i>Recommendations</i>
CA1	Sunset Close Community Centre	1734	No change
CA2	The Green – Temporary Station	2110	No change
CA3	Community Meeting Room, St John's RC Church	858	No change
CA4	Sea Cadet Centre	925	No change

Existing Polling Stations

<i>Polling Station</i>	<i>Polling District</i>	<i>Polling Station Electorate</i>	<i>Disabled Access</i>	<i>Recommendations</i>
Sunset Close Community Centre	CA1	1349	Yes	No change
The Green – Temporary Station	CA2	1694	Yes ¹	No change
Community Meeting Room, St John's RC Church	CA3	703	Yes	No change
Sea Cadet Centre	CA4	753	Yes	No change

¹ Although temporary stations are suitably equipped to enable access for all voters (ramps and handrails for disabled access) there are still ongoing concerns due to inherent characteristics of mobile units, such as their narrow entrance and limited internal area.

Recommendations

A submission was received from the Tamworth Conservative Councillors requesting that the Oxbridge Estate and neighbouring properties becomes a polling district in their own right with electors sent to the Buckingham Road temporary polling station (ME5) in the neighbouring Mercian Ward. On paper this seems quite a logical proposition and has been considered carefully but in reality there would be a number of issues. Firstly, it is not sensible to move electors from a disabled friendly building like Sunset Close Community Centre which has dedicated disabled access and has parking albeit limited to a temporary station which has none of these. These properties are situated on a convenient public transport route that stops and collects passengers on Lichfield Street at the end of Sunset Close. There are no transport links to the temporary station on Buckingham Road. A move here would also mean that electors would be need to cross a very busy road that is well used by heavy goods vehicles and others accessing the neighbouring industrial estate. There is no pedestrian crossing on this road to ensure that less able bodied electors could cross the road safely. A move here would also require another temporary polling station as the existing temporary station covering the ME5 polling district could not accommodate the additional electors from this area particularly at a high turnout election. The estimated cost for an additional temporary station is in the region of £1,300 or approximately £5 for every elector on this housing estate whether they vote at a polling station or not. Presently, only 289 out of 418 electors from this estate chose to vote at a polling station and turnout in 2019 at Sunset Close Community Centre for the entire CA1 polling district was an average of 17%.

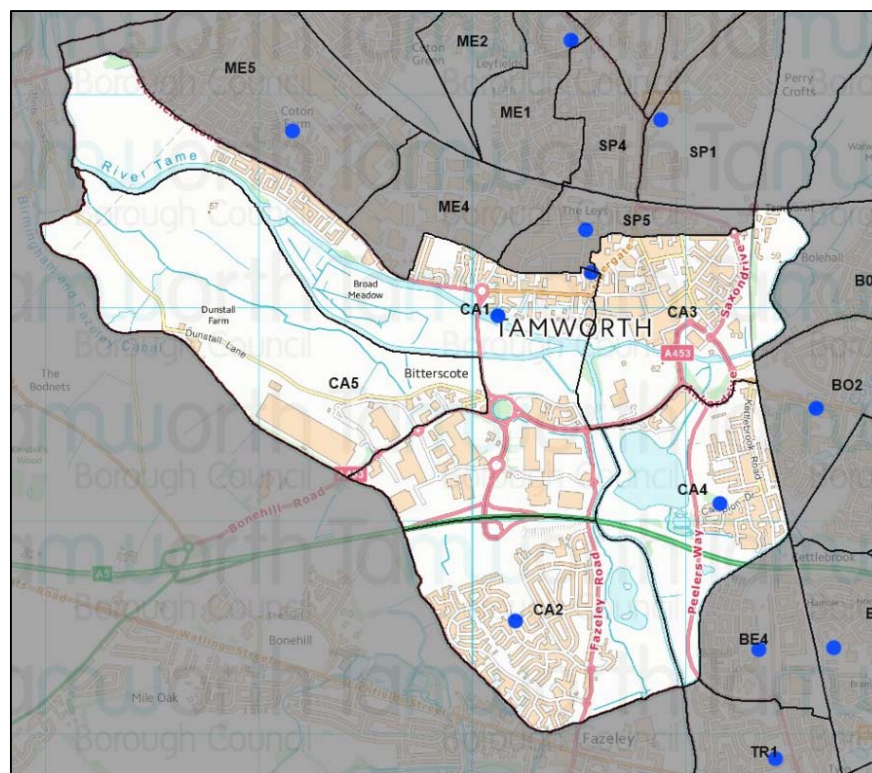
Temporary polling stations are only used where there is no suitable alternative in the locality. Although, temporary stations are suitably equipped to enable access for all voters (ramps and handrails for disabled access) there are still ongoing concerns due to the inherent characteristics of temporary stations, such as their narrow entrance and limited internal area and access issues from paths across uneven/muddy ground which is exacerbated if the weather is poor on or around polling day. If the Authority was to move away from a perfectly accessible building in favour of a temporary station so that the location is slightly more convenient it could open the door for a claim regarding disability discrimination. Complaints have been received regarding accessibility to the temporary station on Buckingham Road at the recent elections in May 2019. These complaints were in regard to the uneven surface surrounding the temporary station. Therefore, it is not practical to send more electors to a polling station where we are aware of accessibility issues and for this reason I am recommending a “no change” to the CA1 polling district.

The estate currently being built on the former Dunstall Farm site will become the newly created CA5 polling district. The electorate in this polling district will be monitored and when required a polling station within the polling district or adjacent polling districts will be found. For this reason it is recommended that polling place represent the same area as the polling district plus the adjoining polling district(s) within the ward to allow a greater degree of flexibility in deciding where a polling station should be located should the need arise.

Five other submissions were received regarding the remaining polling districts, places and stations in the Castle Ward all recommended “no change”. Therefore, as there have also been no comments made by any electors asking for change at any of the recent elections via our polling station questionnaires or as part of this consultation it is recommended that the polling districts below do not have any changes made to them with the exception of the creation of the new CA5 polling district:

- CA1
- CA2
- CA3
- CA4

Summary of proposed new Polling Districts and Polling Stations



<i>New Polling District</i>	<i>Proposed Polling Station</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Estimated Electorateⁱ</i>	<i>Estimated Polling Station Electorateⁱⁱ</i>	<i>No of polling stations</i>
CA1	Sunset Close Community Centre	Sunset Close, Off Lichfield Street, B79 7QJ	3,164	2,595	2
CA2	The Green – Temporary Station	Land Adjacent to Durham Close, County Drive	2,915	2,390	2
CA3	Community Meeting Room, St John's RC Church	St John's RC Church, St John's Street, B79 7EX	1,882	1,544	1
CA4	Sea Cadet Centre	St John's RC Church, St John's Street, B79 7EX	1,420	1,164	1
CA5	Sunset Close Community Centre	Sunset Close, Off Lichfield Street, B79 7QJ	2,119 ⁱⁱⁱ	1,738	Combine with polling stations in CA1 until electorate is large enough for own polling station

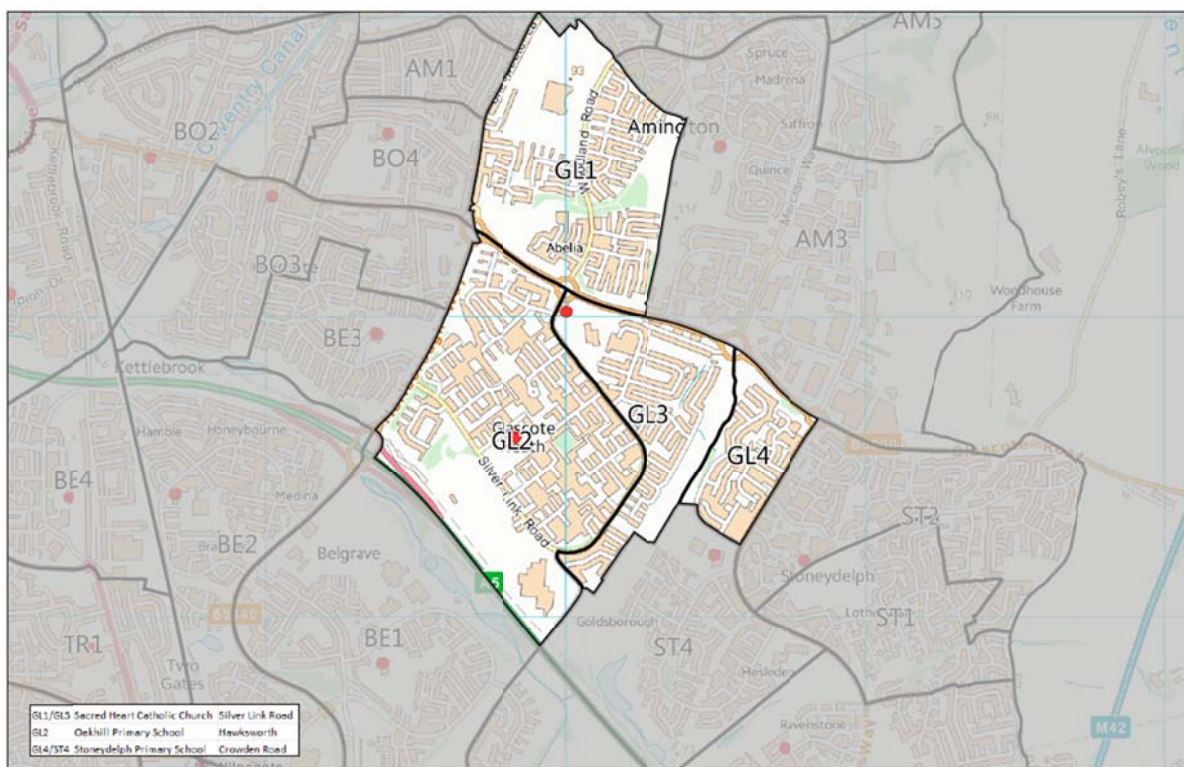
ⁱ Estimated Electorate = Number of Properties x 2.6

ⁱⁱ Estimated Polling Station Electorate = Based on the average of 82% of electors choosing to attend a polling station

ⁱⁱⁱ The estimated electorate figures are based on completion of building works = estimated number of properties x 2.6. The estimated Polling station electorate is based on 18% of electorate opting to vote by post. The electorate in the area will be monitored and when required a polling place within the polling district or adjacent polling districts will be found. There are no registered electors as yet in this area.

Glascote Ward

Existing Polling Districts



<i>Polling District</i>	<i>Polling Station</i>	<i>Electorate</i>	<i>Recommendations</i>
GL1	Sacred Heart Catholic Church	1535	No change
GL2	Oakhill Primary School	2417	No change
GL3	Sacred Heart Catholic Church	951	No change
GL4	Stoneydelph Primary School	611	No change

Existing Polling Stations

<i>Polling Station</i>	<i>Polling District</i>	<i>Polling Station Electorate</i>	<i>Disabled Access</i>	<i>Recommendations</i>
Sacred Heart Catholic Church	GL1	1225	Yes	No change
Oakhill Primary School	GL2	2059	Yes	No change
Sacred Heart Catholic Church	GL3	760	Yes	No change
Stoneydelph Primary School	GL4	549	Yes	No change

Recommendations

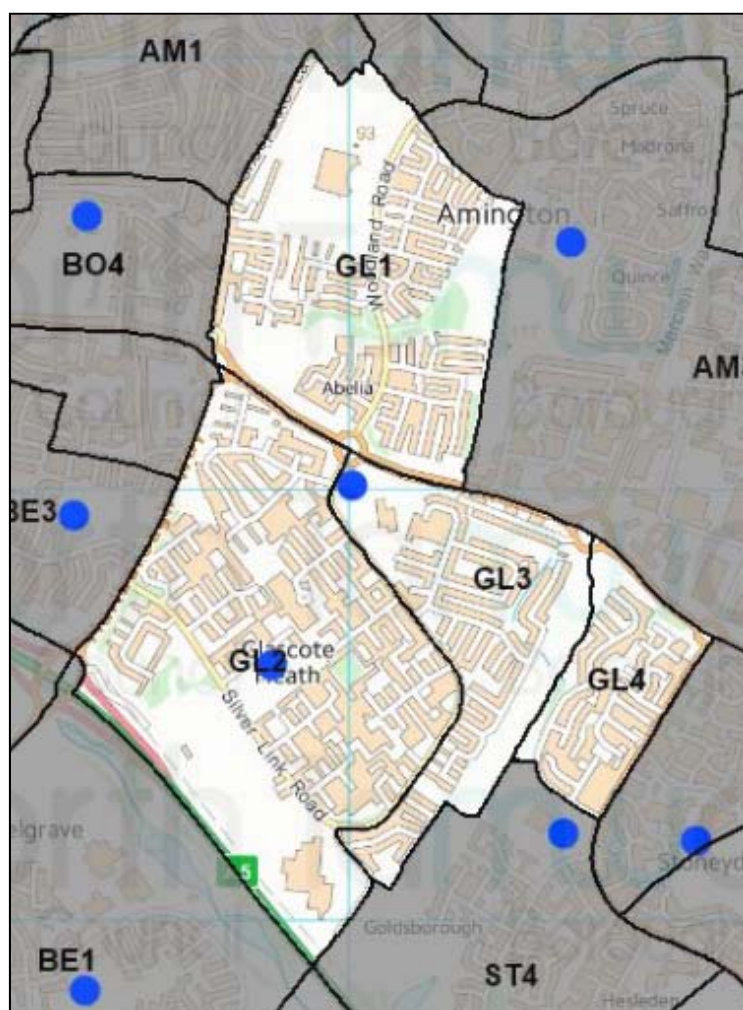
A submission was received from Tamworth Conservatives and Tamworth Conservative Association requesting that the GL1 polling district was served by a temporary polling station located somewhere in polling district. No specific location was identified as part of the submission. Any land that would be large enough to site a temporary station is also not flat and would be very difficult if not impossible to access for a heavy goods vehicle as the entrances to potential site currently have concrete bollards preventing access for large vehicle. Currently, the GL1 polling district vote at the Sacred Heart RC Church on Silverlink Road. I believe that this building is ideal for voting purposes as it offers plenty of parking, and is on the number 7 bus route which runs regularly along Woodlands Road and Silverlink Road. It is not practical or sensible to move to a temporary station when an excellent building that meets the requirements set out in the Equality Act 2010 and that currently serves the community is available. The current location is well known and established to the community in the area. No electors have asked for such a move and if it were to go ahead it would be a step backwards for electors as no parking would be available and access for the disabled would at the very least be compromised. The current polling station at the Sacred Heart RC Church also meets the requirements set out by the Electoral Commission.

Temporary polling stations are only used where there is no suitable alternative in the locality. Although, temporary stations are suitably equipped to enable access for all voters (ramps and handrails for disabled access) there are still ongoing concerns due to the inherent characteristics of temporary stations, such as their narrow entrance and limited internal area and access issues from paths across uneven/muddy ground which is exacerbated if the weather is poor on or around polling day. If the Authority was to move away from a perfectly accessible building in favour of a temporary station so that the location is slightly more convenient it could open the door for a claim regarding disability discrimination.

Two other submissions were received regarding the polling districts, polling places and polling station within the Glascote Ward all recommending "no change". There have been no comments made by electors asking for change at the recent elections or as part of this consultation relating to any of the polling districts, polling places or polling station within the ward. Therefore, for this reason I am recommending that the polling districts, polling places and polling stations do not have any changes made to them.

It is recommended that polling place represent the same area as the polling district plus the adjoining polling district(s) to allow a greater degree of flexibility in deciding where a polling station should be located should the need arise.

Summary of proposed new Polling Districts and Polling Stations



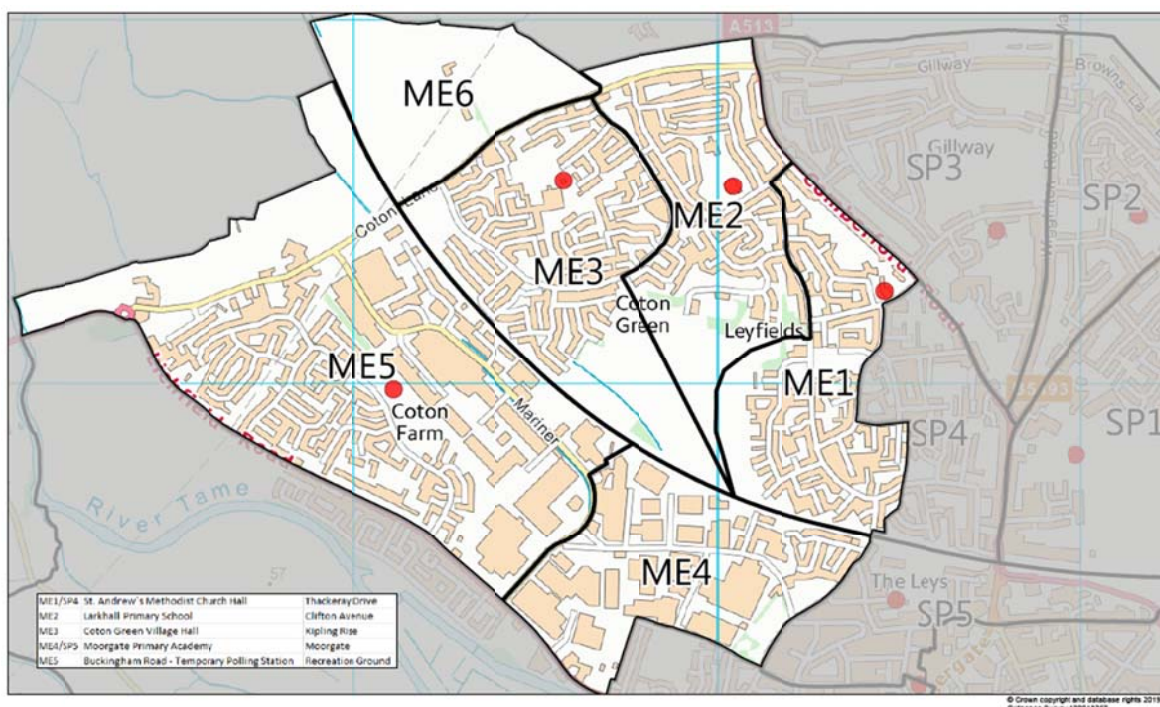
<i>New Polling District</i>	<i>Proposed Polling Station</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Estimated Electorate¹</i>	<i>Estimated Polling Station Electorate²</i>	<i>No of polling stations</i>
GL1	Sacred Heart Catholic Church	Silver Link Road, Glascote Heath, B77 2EA	2,161	1,772	2
GL2	Oakhill Primary School	Hawksworth, Glascote Heath, B77 2HH	3,658	3,000	2
GL3	Sacred Heart Catholic Church	Silver Link Road, Glascote Heath, B77 2EA	1,323	1,085	1
GL4	Stoneydelph Primary School	Crowden Road, Stonydelph, B77 4LS	978	802	1

¹ Estimated Electorate = Number of Properties x 2.6

² Based on the average of 82% of electors choosing to attend a polling station.

Mercian Ward

Existing Polling Districts



<i>Polling District</i>	<i>Polling Station</i>	<i>Electorate</i>	<i>Recommendations</i>
ME1	St Andrew's Methodist Church Hall	1421	No change
ME2	Larkhall Primary School	1049	No change
ME3	Coton Green Village Hall	1314	No change
ME4	Moorgate Primary Academy	166	No change
ME5	Buckingham Road – Temporary Station	1293	No change
ME6	Coton Green Village Hall	91	Change - Move properties from Coton Lane that were formally in ME5 to this polling district.

Existing Polling Stations

<i>Polling Station</i>	<i>Polling District</i>	<i>Polling Station Electorate</i>	<i>Disabled Access</i>	<i>Recommendations</i>
St Andrew's Methodist Church Hall	ME1	1209	Yes	No change
Larkhall Primary School	ME2	881	Yes	No change
Coton Green Village Hall	ME3	1070	Yes	No change
Moorgate Primary Academy	ME4	148	Yes	No change
Buckingham Road – Temporary Station	ME5	1065	Yes ¹	Change - Move properties from Coton Lane that were formally in ME5 to this polling district.
Coton Green Village Hall	ME6	76	Yes	No change

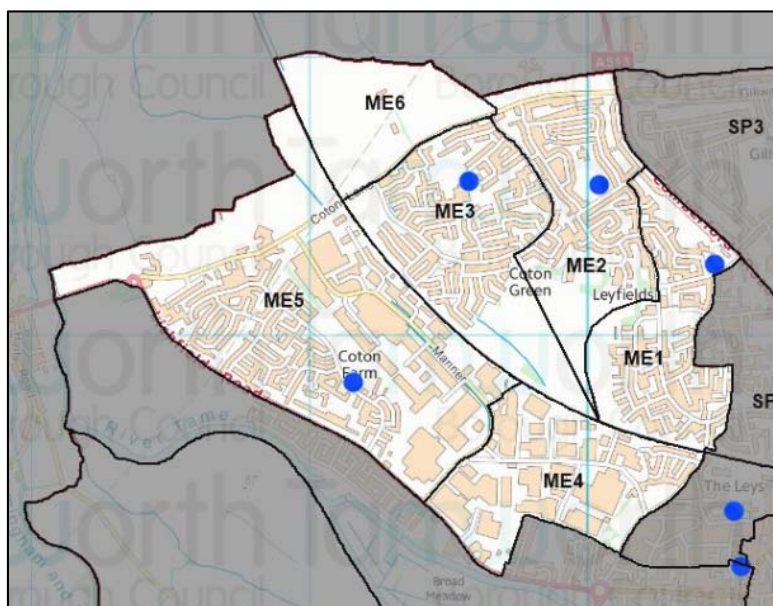
¹ Although temporary stations are suitably equipped to enable access for all voters (ramps and handrails for disabled access) there are still ongoing concerns due to inherent characteristics of mobile units, such as their narrow entrance and limited internal area.

Recommendations

No alternatives to the current polling district and polling place scheme were suggested as part of the consultation. No complaints have been received from any electors regarding the provision of polling places or the polling station facilities provided as part of the consultation. Therefore, with the exception of moving the properties on Coton Lane from the ME5 polling district into the ME6 polling district, it is recommended that no changes are made to the polling districts within the Mercian Ward

It is also recommended that polling place represent the same area as the polling district plus the adjoining polling district(s) to allow a greater degree of flexibility in deciding where a polling station should be located should the need arise.

Summary of proposed new Polling Districts and Polling Stations



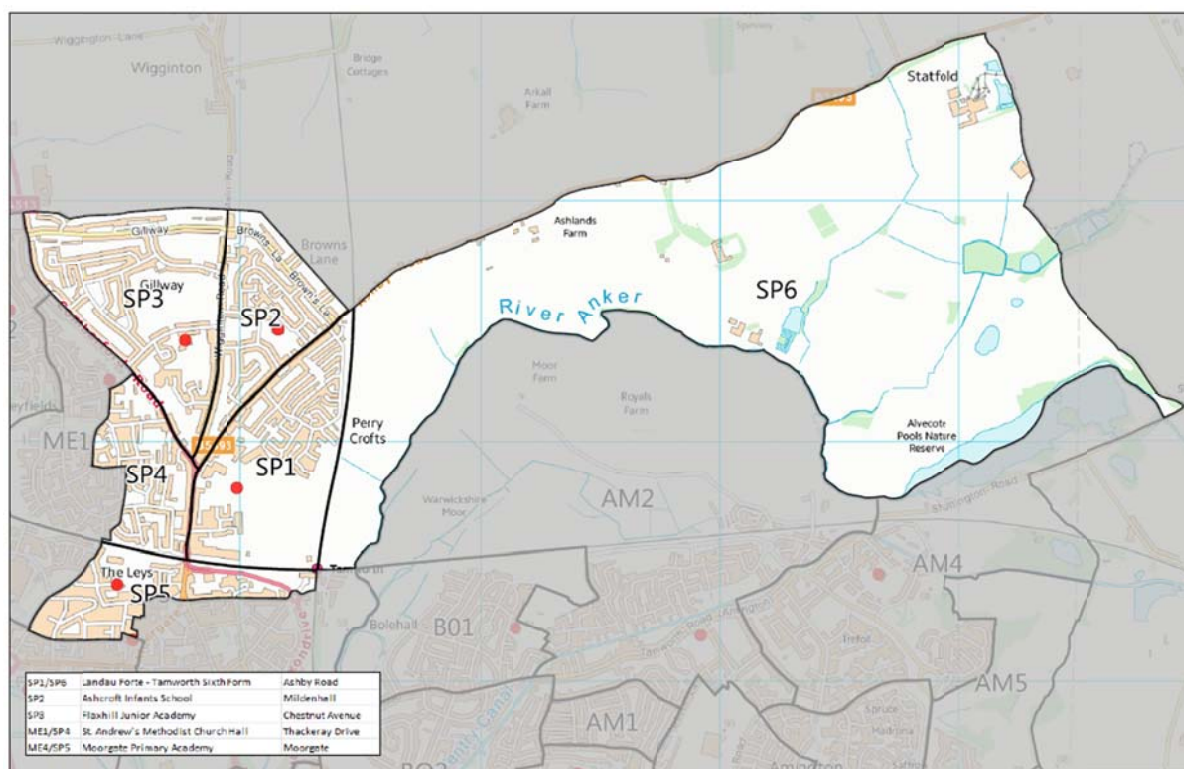
<i>New Polling District</i>	<i>Proposed Polling Station</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Estimated Electorate²</i>	<i>Estimated Polling Station Electorate³</i>	<i>No of polling stations</i>
ME1	St Andrew's Methodist Church Hall	Thackeray Drive, B79 8HY	2389	1959	2
ME2	Larkhall Primary School	Clifton Avenue, Tamworth, B79 8EF	1464	1200	1
ME3	Coton Green Village Hall	Kipling Rise, Coton Green, B79 7UF	1799	1475	2 (when building complete)
ME4	Moorgate Primary Academy	Moorgate, Tamworth, B79 7EL	244	200	1
ME5	Buckingham Road – Temporary Station	Recreation Ground, Buckingham Road	1583	1298	1
ME6	Coton Green Village Hall	Kipling Rise, Coton Green, B79 7UF	676	554	Combine with ME3

² Estimated Electorate = Number of Properties x 2.61589

³ Based on the average of 82% of electors choosing to attend a polling station.

Spital Ward

Existing Polling Districts



Existing Polling Districts

<i>Polling District</i>	<i>Polling Station</i>	<i>Electorate</i>	<i>Recommendations</i>
SP1	Landau Forte – Tamworth Sixth Form	997	No change
SP2	Ashcroft Infants School	1104	No change
SP3	Flaxhill Junior School	1531	No change
SP4	St Andrew's Methodist Church Hall	777	No change
SP5	Moorgate Primary Academy	1042	No change
SP6	Landau Forte – Tamworth Sixth Form	257	No change

Existing Polling Stations

<i>Polling Station</i>	<i>Polling District</i>	<i>Polling Station Electorate</i>	<i>Disabled Access</i>	<i>Recommendations</i>
Landau Forte – Tamworth Sixth Form	SP1	705	Yes	No change
Ashcroft Infants School	SP2	870	Yes	No change
Flaxhill Junior School	SP3	1230	Yes	No change
St Andrew's Methodist Church Hall	SP4	606	Yes	No change
Moorgate Primary Academy	SP5	857	Yes	No change
Landau Forte – Tamworth Sixth Form	SP6	227	Yes	Change - Move to Ashcrofts Infants School.

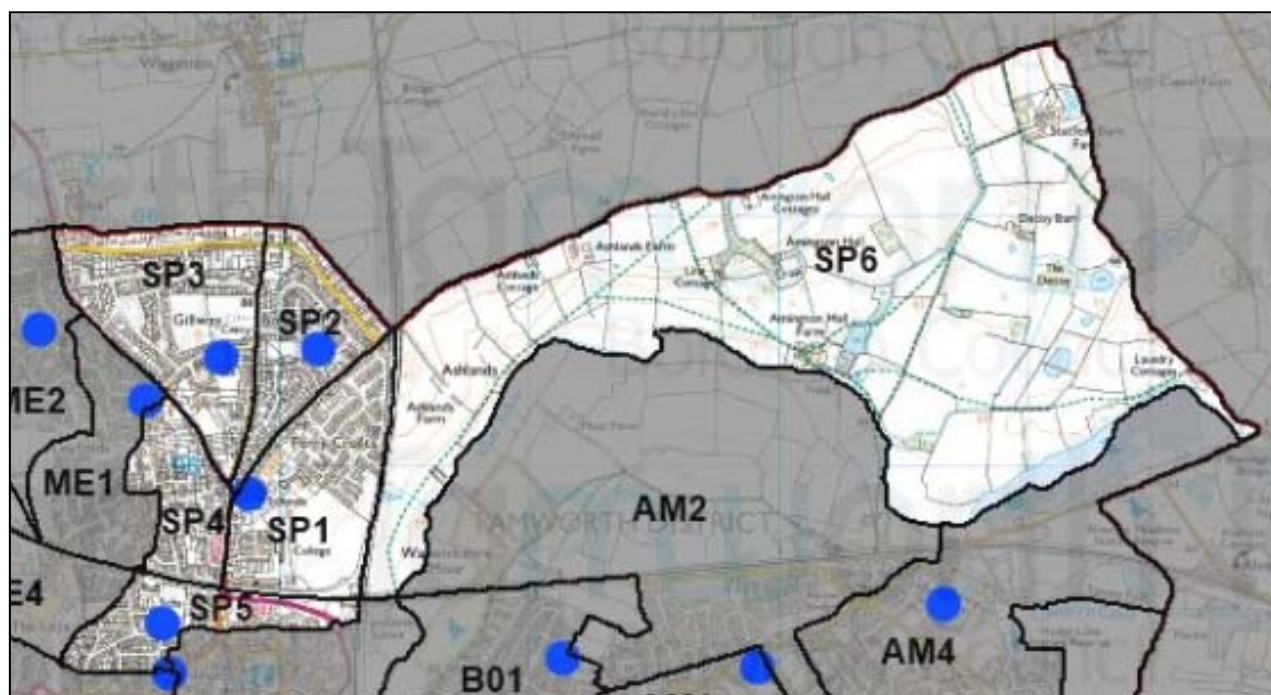
Recommendations

A submission was received from the Tamworth Conservative Councillors and Tamworth Conservative Association requesting a temporary polling station for the SP6 polling district as there is quite a distance to the current polling station. Currently, the electorate is very small in this development. The polling district will be kept under review and once the electorate reaches a suitable level a polling station within the polling district will be used. It is not feasible at the moment to place a temporary station here as the estate is still a building site. There are small areas of open space but none of these have yet been adopted by the local authority. Therefore, the polling place for the SP6 ward will move from its current location at Landau Forte – Tamworth Sixth Form and relocated to Ashcroft Infants School.

No comments have been received from any electors requesting changes at any of the recent polls and therefore, no change is proposed to the current polling district, places and polling station with the exception of relocating the polling station for the SP6 polling district.

Finally, it is recommended that polling place represent the same area as the polling district plus the adjoining polling district(s) to allow a greater degree of flexibility in deciding where a polling station should be located should the need arise.

Summary of proposed new Polling Districts and Polling Stations



<i>New Polling District</i>	<i>Proposed Polling Station</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Estimated Electorate¹</i>	<i>Estimated Polling Station Electorate²</i>	<i>No of polling stations</i>
SP1	Landau Forte – Tamworth Sixth Form	Ashby Road, Tamworth, B79 8AA	1,414	1160	1
SP2	Ashcroft Infants School	Mildenhall, B79 8RU	1,537	1260	1
SP3	Flaxhill Junior School	Chestnut Avenue, Gillway, B79 8QZ	2,267	1859	2
SP4	St Andrew's Methodist Church Hall	Thackeray Drive, B79 8HY	1,147	940	1
SP5	Moorgate Primary Academy	Moorgate, Tamworth, B79 7EL	1,812	1486	1
SP6	Landau Forte – Tamworth Sixth Form	Ashby Road, Tamworth, B79 8AA	1,560	1279	Combine with SP2

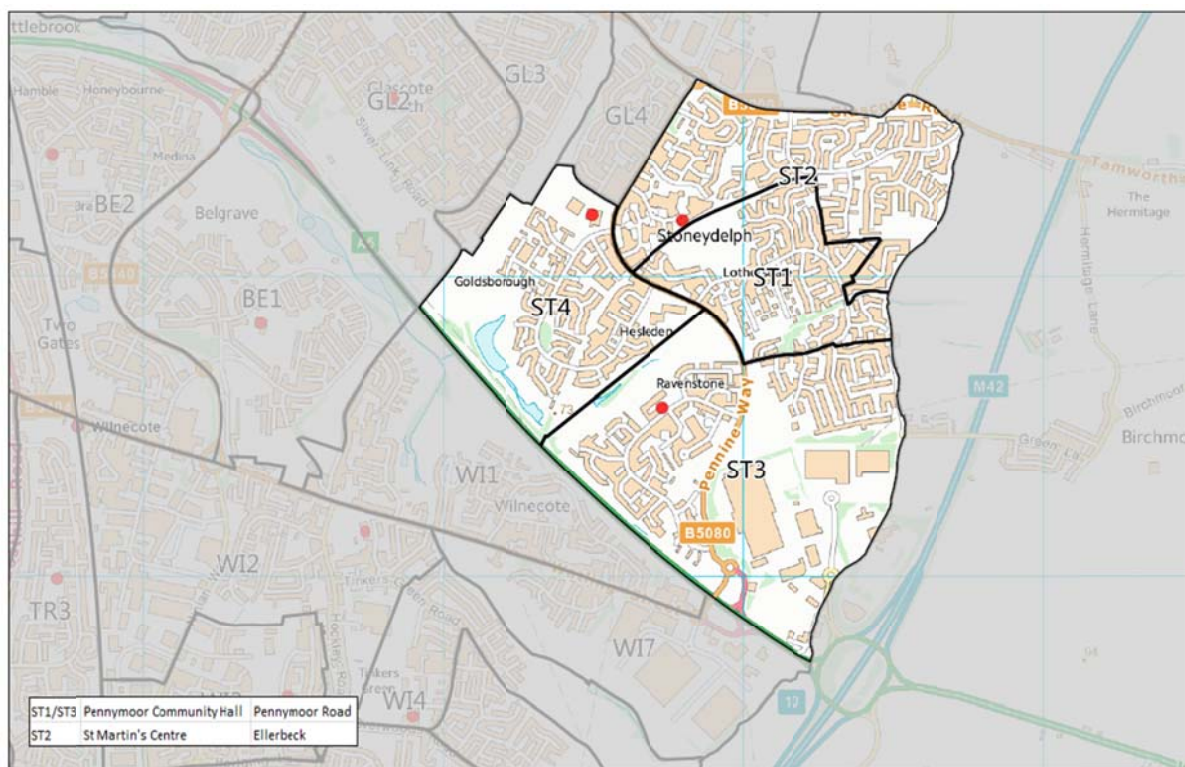
¹ Estimated Electorate = Number of Properties x 2.61583

² Based on the average of 82% of electors choosing to attend a polling station.

Note regarding SP6 - The estimated electorate figures are based on completion of building works = estimated number of properties x 2.6. The estimated Polling station electorate is based on 18% of electorate opting to vote by post. The electorate in the area will be monitored and when required a polling place within the polling district or adjacent polling districts will be found.

Stonydelph Ward

Existing Polling Districts



Existing Polling Districts

<i>Polling District</i>	<i>Polling Station</i>	<i>Electorate</i>	<i>Recommendations</i>
ST1	Pennymoor Community Hall	1,287	No change
ST2	St Martin's Centre	1,686	Change - Move Marrick to ST1
ST3	Pennymoor Community Hall	1,628	No change
ST4	Stoneydelph Primary School	1,134	No change

Existing Polling Stations

<i>Polling Station</i>	<i>Polling District</i>	<i>Polling Station Electorate</i>	<i>Disabled Access</i>	<i>Recommendations</i>
Pennymoor Community Hall	ST1	1,034	Yes	No change
St Martin's Centre	ST2	1,388	Yes	No change
Pennymoor Community Hall	ST3	1,341	Yes	No change
Stoneydelph Primary School	ST4	981	Yes	No change

Recommendations

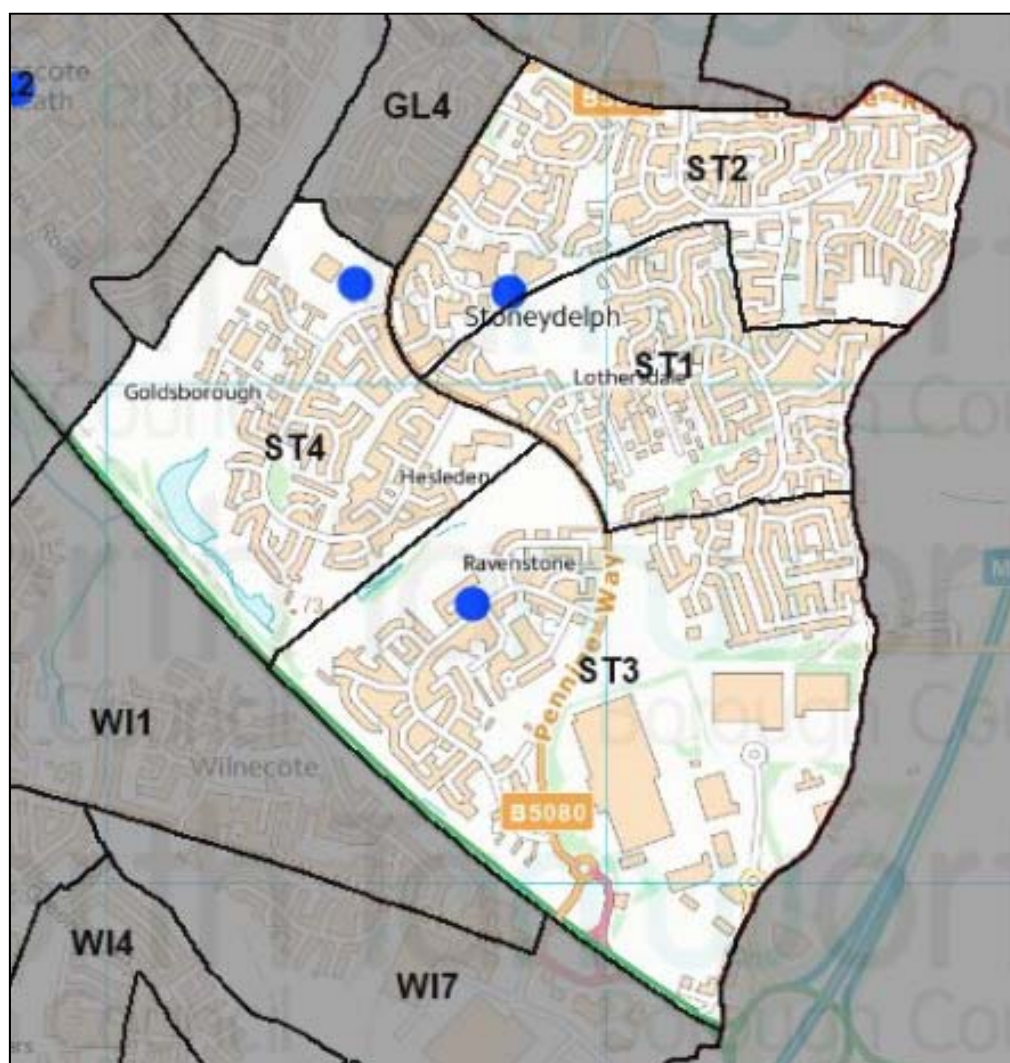
A submission was received from the Tamworth Conservative Councillors and Tamworth Conservative Association requesting a temporary polling station for the ST2 polling district. Currently, the ST2 polling district vote at St Martin in the Delph Community Centre on Ellerbeck. I believe that this building is ideal for voting purposes as it offers plenty of parking, included a number of dedicated disabled parking bays. It is accessible on foot from this housing estate via a number of routes including the pedestrian Stonydelph Lane. The building is fully accessible with a ramp to the frontage to aid access.

The only area of open space is the land adjacent to Broadlee. The widest access point is located by numbers 33 and 34 and it is highly unlikely that a HGV would be able to access the area due to its narrow entrance. This open space is located on a downhill slope although the green area is reasonable flat. This would mean that electors would have a fairly steep uphill walk after casting their vote. This could be an issue for anyone with mobility issues as there is not a dedicated disabled parking bay and street parking is extremely limited. According to statistics provided by Staffordshire Observatory there are approximately 7,000 people within the borough who have mobility issues and an unknown number of people with other impediments. We must be very careful about not accidentally disenfranchising an elector as they are unable to access voting facilities easily. Section 16 of the Electoral Administration Act 2006 has placed a requirement on the local authority to review the accessibility of all polling stations. This review is undertaken at every poll and includes a polling station questionnaire that electors can complete if they wish to. No complaints have been received at the recent elections in regard to accessibility issues.

Due to the fact that I have concerns regarding accessibility for disabled electors and the fact that no comments have been received from electors at the recent polls requesting any changes. I therefore, propose no changes to the polling districts in this ward with the exception of the relocation of Marrick from ST2 to ST1.

Finally, is recommended that polling place represent the same area as the polling district plus the adjoining polling district(s) to allow a greater degree of flexibility in deciding where a polling station should be located should the need arise.

Summary of proposed new Polling Districts and Polling Stations



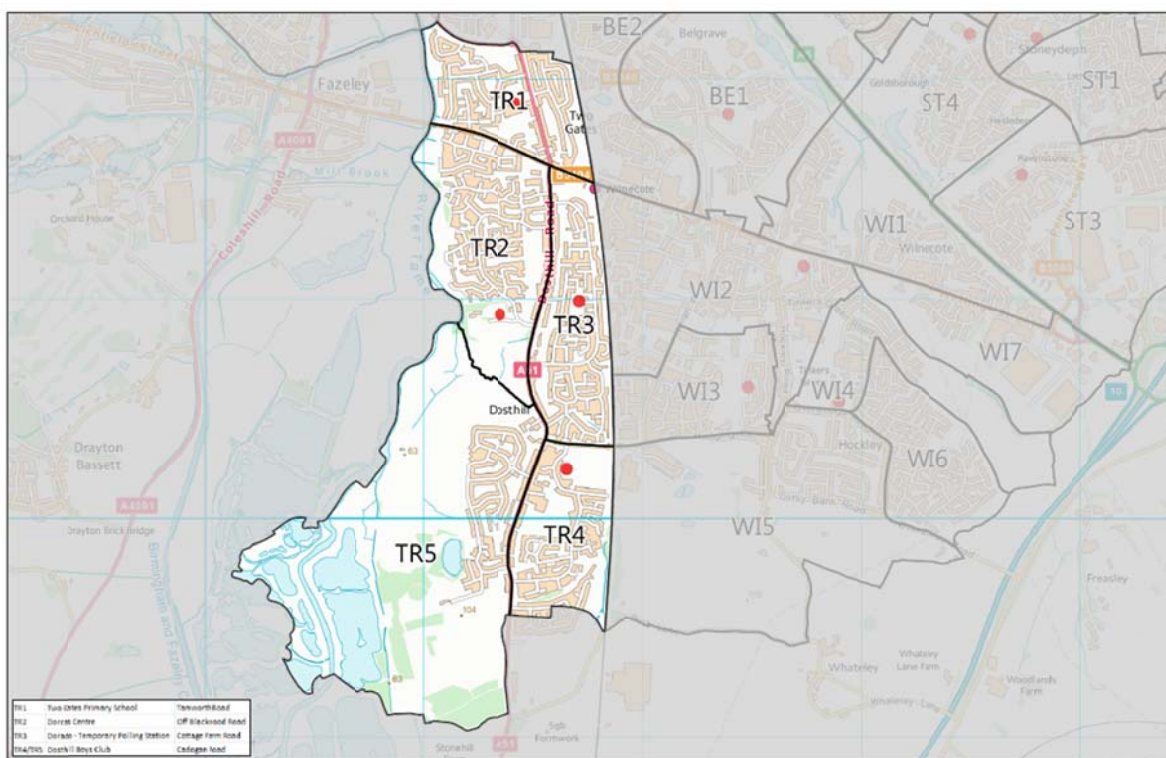
<i>New Polling District</i>	<i>Proposed Polling Station</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Estimated Electorate¹</i>	<i>Estimated Polling Station Electorate²</i>	<i>No of polling stations</i>
ST1	Pennymoor Community Hall	Pennymoor Road, Stonydelph, B77 4LG	1,794	1,471	1
ST2	St Martin's Centre	Ellerbeck, Stonydelph, B77 4JA	2,600	2,132	2
ST3	Pennymoor Community Hall	Pennymoor Road, Stonydelph, B77 4LG	2,278	1,868	1
ST4	Stoneydelph Primary School	Crowden Road, Stonydelph, B77 4LS	1,599	1,311	1

¹ Estimated Electorate = Number of Properties x 2.61583

² Based on the average of 82% of electors choosing to attend a polling station.

Trinity Ward

Existing Polling Districts



Existing Polling Districts

<i>Polling District</i>	<i>Polling Station</i>	<i>Electorate</i>	<i>Recommendations</i>
TR1	Two Gates Primary School	1,281	No change
TR2	Dorcas Centre	1,240	No change
TR3	Dorado – Temporary Station	1,401	No change
TR4	Dosthill Boys Club	997	No change
TR5	Dosthill Boys Club	845	No change

Existing Polling Stations

<i>Polling Station</i>	<i>Polling District</i>	<i>Polling Station Electorate</i>	<i>Disabled Access</i>	<i>Recommendations</i>
Two Gates Primary School	TR1	1,076	Yes	No change
Dorcas Centre	TR2	989	Yes	No change
Dorado – Temporary Station	TR3	1,172	Yes ¹	No change
Dosthill Boys Club	TR4	814	Yes	No change
Dosthill Boys Club	TR5	644	Yes	No change

¹ Although temporary stations are suitably equipped to enable access for all voters (ramps and handrails for disabled access) there are still ongoing concerns due to inherent characteristics of mobile units, such as their narrow entrance and limited internal area.

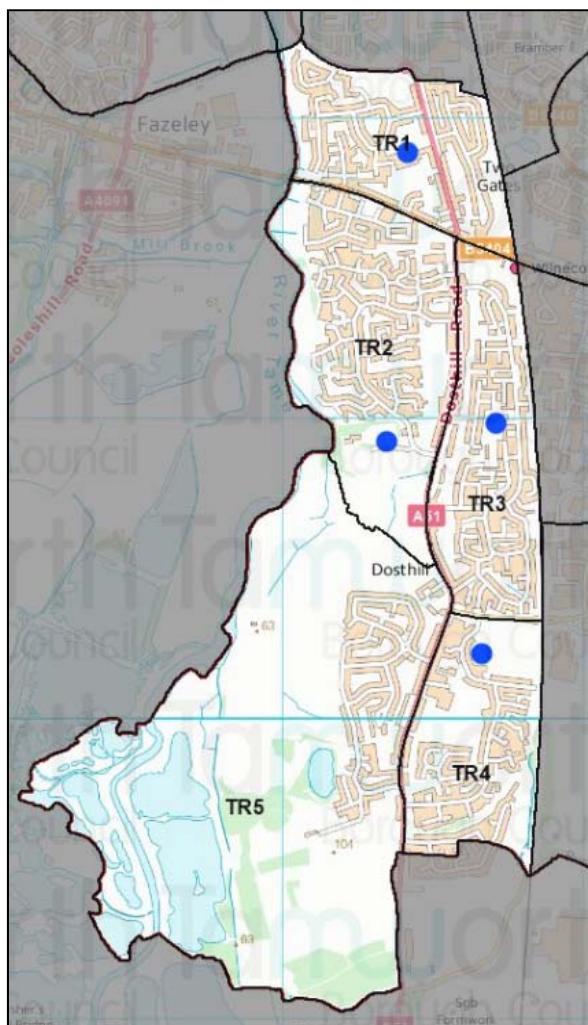
Recommendations

Out of the submissions received only one requested a change as the result of using a school as a polling station. It should be noted that although the Trinity Ward currently uses one school as polling station the head teacher is informed of scheduled polls several years in advance thus allowing ample time to plan for a Teacher Training Inset Day. This should help keep disruption and inconvenience to a minimum. Whilst head teachers must provide the Returning Officer with a suitable room to facilitate voting it is not the Returning Officer who chooses to close the school. This is a decision taken by the head teacher and in fact a number of schools that are used as polling stations throughout the borough remain either fully or partially open on polling days.

Schools are required under statute to be made available for voting purposes. This is partly due to the fact that as a public building the access must meet all requirements set out in the Equality Act 2010. Accessibility for disabled voters is a very important issue and ensuring that polling stations are suitable for all sorts of disability is essential. According to statistics provided by Staffordshire Observatory there are approximately 7,000 people within the borough who have mobility issues and an unknown number of people with other impediments. We must be very careful about not accidentally disenfranchising an elector as they are unable to access voting facilities easily. Section 16 of the Electoral Administration Act 2006 has placed a requirement on the local authority to review the accessibility of all polling stations. A review is undertaken at every poll and a polling station questionnaire is available for completion by electors. No complaints have been received at any of the recent elections in regard to accessibility issues in the Trinity Ward. Therefore, no changes are proposed to any of the polling stations currently used.

It is recommended that polling place represent the same area as the polling district plus the adjoining polling district(s) to allow a greater degree of flexibility in deciding where a polling station should be located should the need arise.

Summary of proposed new Polling Districts and Polling Stations



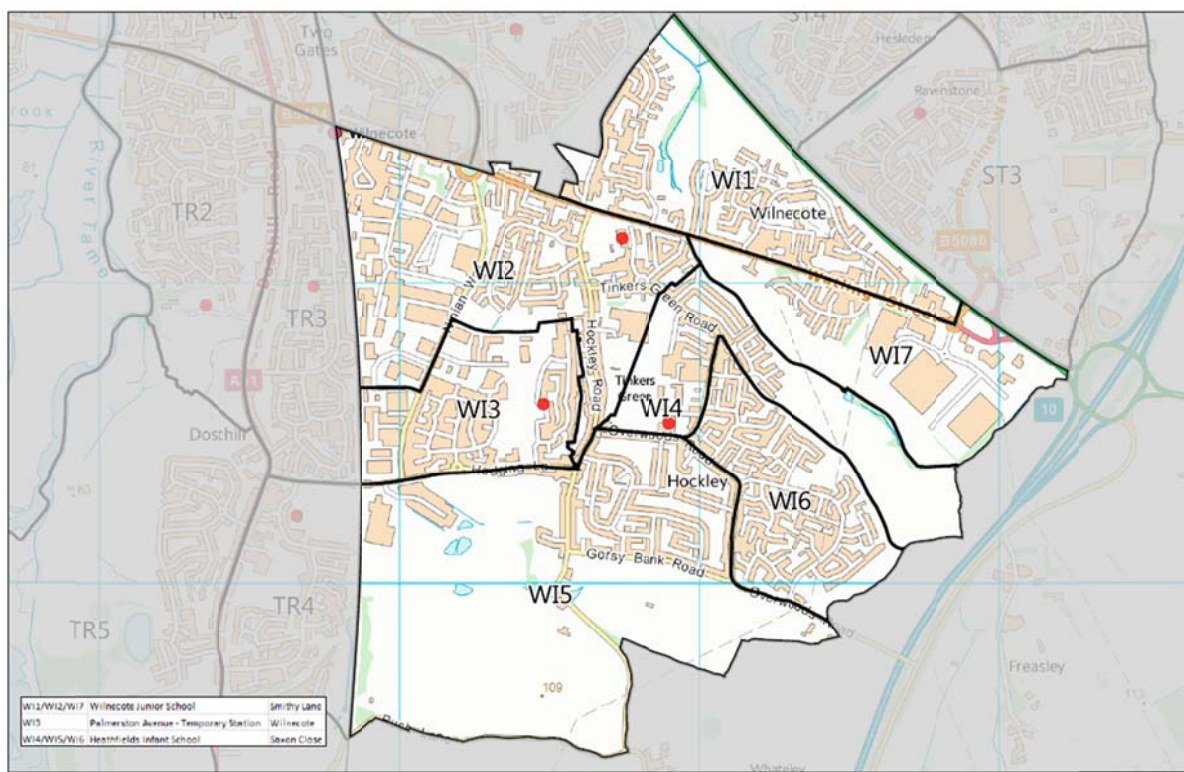
<i>New Polling District</i>	<i>Proposed Polling Station</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Estimated Electorate²</i>	<i>Estimated Polling Station Electorate³</i>	<i>No of polling stations</i>
TR1	Two Gates Primary School	Tamworth Road, B77 1EN	1,934	1,586	1
TR2	Dorcas Centre	Dosthill, B77 1JE	1,617	1,326	1
TR3	Dorado – Temporary Station	Cottage Farm Road, Dosthill	1,955	1,603	1
TR4	Dosthill Boys Club	Cadogan Road, Dosthill, B77 1PQ	1,388	1,138	1
TR5	Dosthill Boys Club	Cadogan Road, Dosthill, B77 1PQ	1,165	955	1

² Estimated Electorate = Number of Properties x 2.61583

³ Based on the average of 82% of electors choosing to attend a polling station.

Wilnecote Ward

Existing Polling Districts



Existing Polling Districts

<i>Polling District</i>	<i>Polling Station</i>	<i>Electorate</i>	<i>Recommendations</i>
WI1	Wilnecote Junior School	1,371	No change
WI2	Wilnecote Junior School	1,215	No change
WI3	Palmerston Avenue – Temporary Station	987	Change – take in properties from remainder of Hedging Lane, Blackberry Way, some properties on Hockley Road and Whateley Lane to move into WI3
WI4	Heathfields Infants School	479	Change - combine with WI6
WI5	Heathfields Infants School	1,227	Change – remainder of Hedging Lane, Blackberry Way, some properties on Hockley Road and Whateley Lane to move into WI3.
WI6	Heathfields Infants School	1,297	Change – combine with WI4
WI7	Wilnecote Junior School	275	Change – rename WI6

Existing Polling Stations

<i>Polling Station</i>	<i>Polling District</i>	<i>Polling Station Electorate</i>	<i>Disabled Access</i>	<i>Recommendations</i>
Wilnecote Junior School	WI1	1105	Yes	No change
Wilnecote Junior School	WI2	1017	Yes	No change
Palmerston Avenue – Temporary Station	WI3	819	Yes ¹	No change

¹ Although temporary stations are suitably equipped to enable access for all voters (ramps and handrails for disabled access) there are still ongoing concerns due to inherent characteristics of mobile units, such as their narrow entrance and limited internal area.

<i>Polling Station</i>	<i>Polling District</i>	<i>Polling Station Electorate</i>	<i>Disabled Access</i>	<i>Recommendations</i>
Heathfields Infants School	WI4	399	Yes	No change
Heathfields Infants School	WI5	980	Yes	No change
Heathfields Infants School	WI6	1016	Yes	No change
Wilnecote Junior School	WI7	217	Yes	No change

Recommendations

A submission was received asking for some of the polling districts to be amended in this ward. After looking at the map it seems sensible to combine polling districts WI4 and WI6 as suggested. These will be combined and will be renamed WI4. The polling district will still vote at Heathfields Infants School. The WI7 polling district will be renamed WI6.

The amendment to the WI5 and WI3 polling district seems as sensible solution. Therefore, the remainder of Hedging Lane including part of Hockley Road and Whateley Lane will be incorporated into the WI3 polling district. These electors will vote at the temporary station located on Palmerston Avenue.

It should be noted that although the Wilnecote Ward currently uses two schools as polling station the head teachers are informed of scheduled polls several years in advance thus allowing ample time to plan for a Teacher Training Inset Day. This should help keep disruption and inconvenience to a minimum. Whilst head teachers must provide the Returning Officer with a suitable room to facilitate voting it is not the Returning Officer who chooses to close the school. This is a decision taken by the head teacher and in fact a number of schools that are used as polling stations throughout the borough remain either fully or partially open on polling days.

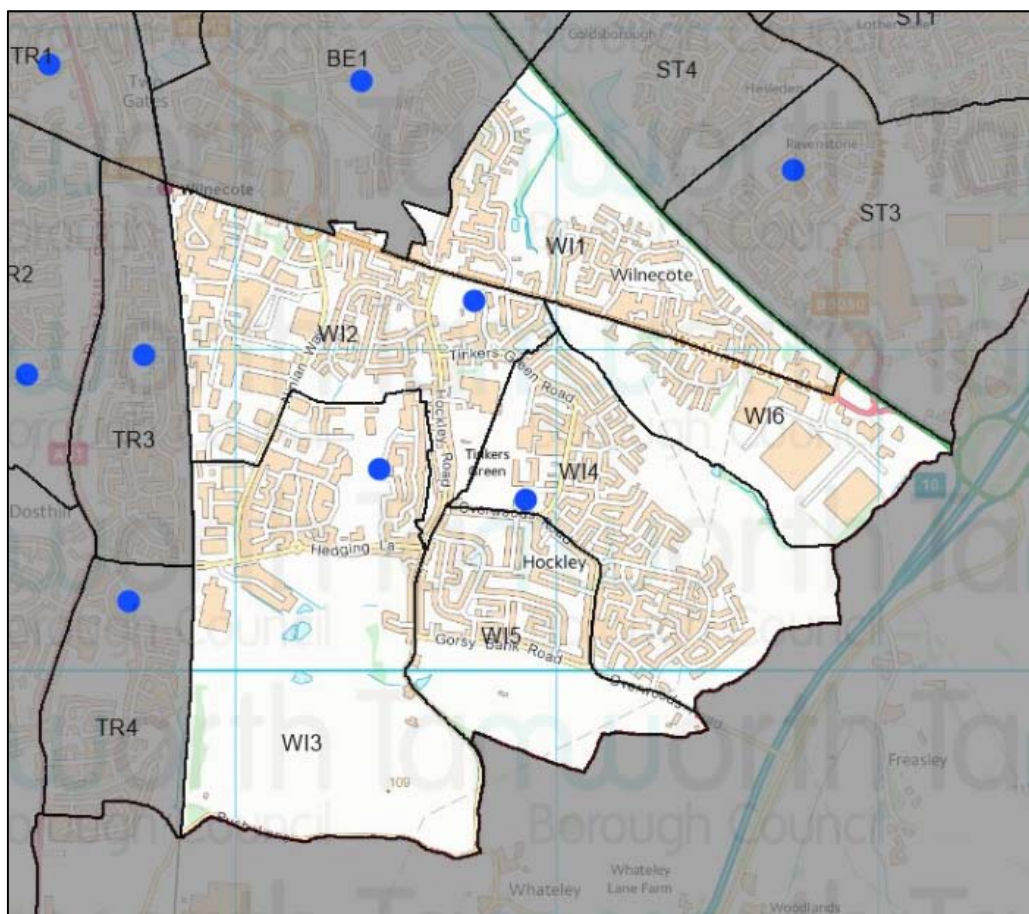
Schools are required under statute to be made available for voting purposes. This is partly due to the fact that as a public building the access must meet all requirements set out in the Equality Act 2010. Accessibility for disabled voters is a very important issue and ensuring that polling stations are suitable for all sorts of disability is essential. According to statistics provided by Staffordshire Observatory there are approximately 7,000 people within the borough who have mobility issues and an unknown number of people with other impediments. We must be very careful about not accidentally disenfranchising an elector as they are unable to access voting facilities easily. Section 16 of the Electoral Administration Act 2006 has placed a requirement on the local authority to review the accessibility of all polling stations. A review is undertaken at every poll and a polling station questionnaire is available for completion by electors. No complaints have been received at any of the recent elections in regard to accessibility issues in the Wilnecote Ward.

The newly built but unfinished Scout Hut adjacent to Ninefoot Park actually just falls into the Belgrave Ward. At present there is an uneven surface in the car park and there is no dedicated disabled parking bay. The car park is also utilised by the local businesses and the nearby churches so parking in this location could potentially be an issue.

Wilnecote Village Hall is too far away from the main population of the ward and there are no transport routes that would help facilitate the electorate to travel there.

Therefore, at the present time I am proposing no changes to the current polling stations and that polling place represent the same area as the polling district plus the adjoining polling district(s) to allow a greater degree of flexibility in deciding where a polling station should be located should the need arise.

Summary of proposed new Polling Districts and Polling Stations



<i>New Polling District</i>	<i>Proposed Polling Station</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Estimated Electorate²</i>	<i>Estimated Polling Station Electorate³</i>	<i>No of polling stations</i>
W11	Wilnecote Junior School	Smithy Lane, B77 5LA	1,804	1,480	1
W12	Wilnecote Junior School	Smithy Lane, B77 5LA	1,888	1,548	1
W13	Palmerston Avenue – Temporary Station	Wilnecote, Tamworth, B77 5FE	1,544	1,266	1
W14	Heathfields Infants School	Saxon Close, B77 5LU	2,582	2,117	2
W15	Heathfields Infants School	Saxon Close, B77 5LU	1,872	1,535	1
W16	Wilnecote Junior School	Smithy Lane, B77 5LA	372	3,05	Combined with W11

² Estimated Electorate = Number of Properties x 2.1588

³ Based on the average of 82% of electors choosing to attend a polling station.

Appendix B - List of Consultees

Polling Districts, Places and Stations Review 2019

Tamworth
Borough Council

Title	Contact Name	Stakeholder
	Mr Ken Forest	
		(R.A.F.A) Royal Air Forces Association, Tamworth Branch
		ADSI
		Age UK South Staffordshire
	Amington Miners Welfare Hall	Amington Band Miners Welfare Institute
	Amington Resource Community Hub (The ARCH)	Amington Community Enterprise
	Headteacher	Amington Heath Primary School
	Glascote Health Centre	Anchor Medical Practice
	Headteacher	Anker Moor Primary School
	Headteacher	Ashcroft Infants School
		Bancroft Community Association
		Barnardos SMART
	Headteacher	Birds Bush Primary School
	Chris Winter	Care First
		CASS Carers Association for Southern Staffordshire
		Central Methodist Church (Tamworth)
		Coal Industry Social Welfare Organisation
	Lee Bates	Communities Together CIC
		Cornerstone Childcare Centre
		Coton & Hopwas Petanque Club
	Roger Cheshire	Coton Green Village Hall
	Sally Shorrocks	Creative Choices
		Crossroads (Staffordshire)
		Crown Medical Practice

Title	Contact Name	Stakeholder
		Cruse Bereavement Care South Staffordshire
		Dorcas Centre
		Dosthill Boys Club
	Headteacher	Dosthill Primary Academy
		Dosthill Surgery
		East Staffs Racial Equality Council
		Fibromyalgia Group Staffordshire & West Midlands Support
	Headteacher	Flaxhill Junior Academy
	Headteacher	Florendine Primary School
		Glascote Methodist Church
	Headteacher	Heathfields Infants School
		Heathview Medical Practice
		Hodge Lane Conservation Group
		Home-Start (Tamworth)
	Headteacher	Lakeside Primary School
	Headteacher	Landau Forte Academy - Greenacres
	Headteacher	Larkhall Infants & Nursey Academy
		Laurel House Surgery
		Lichfield Friendship Centre

Title	Contact Name	Stakeholder
	Jennifer Pinkett	Lichfield, Tamworth and Burton Liberal Democrats
		Manna House (Tamworth) - Tamworth Elim Church
		Manna House Day Nursery
		MENCAP
		Monday Club For The Blind Tamworth
	Headteacher	Moorgate Primary Academy
	Acting Returning Officer for the Tamworth Constituency	Mr Andrew Barratt
		Mr Andrew Hammond
		Mr Andrew Whiles
		Mr Brian Jenkins
		Mr Christopher Bain
		Mr Clifford Holmes
		Mr David Hill
		Mr Dennis Powick
		Mr Eddie Jones
		Mr Francis Worrall
		Mr Gary Martin
		Mr Gordon Moore
		Mr Gregory Clarke
		Mr Harry Yendell
		Mr Henry Poultney
		Mr Ian Cooper

Title	Contact Name	Stakeholder
		Mr Jamie Bristoll
		Mr John J Baker
		Mr John Miller
		Mr John Scattergood
		Mr Jonathan Allen
		Mr Lee Wood
		Mr Manjinder Kang
		Mr Mark Matthews
		Mr Matthew Davies
		Mr Matthew McDermid
		Mr Parmjit Kumar
		Mr Paul Biggs
		Mr Paul Sharman
		Mr Paul Smith
		Mr Peter Clayton
		Mr Richard McDermid
		Mr Roger G Jones
		Mr Simon Johnson
		Mr Thomas Jay
		Mr Wayne Whitehouse
		Mr William Goodridge
		Mr William Lodge
		Mrs Carol Dean
		Mrs Gemma Giblin
		Mrs Heather Pascoe
		Mrs Janet Higgins
		Mrs Kelly McDermid
		Mrs Lesley Edmunds
		Mrs Margaret Clarke

Title	Contact Name	Stakeholder
		Mrs Marion Couchman
		Mrs Michelle Abbots
		Mrs Nicola Holmes
		Ms Emma Turner
		Ms Fiona Doyle
		Ms Lisa Crane
		Multiple Sclerosis Tamworth & Lichfield Branch
		Mx Mollie Scharaschkin
		NACRO - The Crime Reduction Charity
	Headteacher	Oakhill Primary School
		Orchard Close Resident's Association
		Parents Forum (Staffordshire)
	C/O Mr A Hamid	Park Farm Community Centre
		Parson Street Surgery
		Pathway Project
		Peel Medical Practice
		Pennymoore Association Trust
		RELATE (South Staffs)
		Riverside Surgery
		Rotary Club Of Tamworth Anker
		Royal British Legion
		Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church

Title	Contact Name	Stakeholder
		Samaritans (Tamworth)
		SCOPE
		Sea Cadet Centre
		South Staffordshire Network for Mental Health
		South Staffs Family Mediation Service (Tamworth)
		SOVA Mentoring Service
		SPIN
	Jack Brierley	St Andrew's Methodist Church Hall
		St Editha's Parish Church
	Headteacher	St Elizabeth Primary School
		St Elizabeth's RC Pre-School
		St Gabriel's Pre-School
		St Gabriel's RC Primary School
		St George's Church
	C/O Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church	St John The Baptist Roman Catholic Church
		St. Giles Hospice
		St. John Ambulance Service
		St. Martin In The Delph Church And Centre
		St. Paul's Church
		Staffordshire Buddies
		Staffordshire Wildlife Trust

Title	Contact Name	Stakeholder
	Headteacher	Stoneydelph Primary School
		Stoneydelph Action
		Stoneydelph Health Centre
	Lee Birch	Sunset Close Community Centre
	Mr John Peters	Survivors Of Bereavement By Suicide
		Tamworth & Lichfield Gateway Club
		Tamworth African Caribbean Association
	Corner Post Gym	Tamworth Amateur Boxing Club
	Eddie Jones	Tamworth and Lichfield Green Party
		Tamworth Baptist Church
		Tamworth Citizens Advice Bureau
		Tamworth Community Transport Services
		Tamworth Conservative Association
		Tamworth Conservative Association
		Tamworth Cornerstone Housing Association
		Tamworth Council For Voluntary Service

Title	Contact Name	Stakeholder
		Tamworth Covenanting Churches
		Tamworth Credit Union Limited
		Tamworth District Scout Council
		Tamworth Labour Party
		Tamworth Neighbourhood Watch Association
	Mrs Zodinia Ball	Tamworth Sixth Form
		Tamworth Special Needs Nursery
		Tamworth Talking Newspaper
		Tamworth Trad Jazz Club
		Tamworth Vineyard Youth
		Tamworth Wellbeing & Cancer Support Centre
		The Family Fun Club
		The Fazeley & District Initiative
		The Friends of William MacGregor School
		The Hollies Medical Practice
		The New Tamworth Stroke Club
		The Rowan Organisation

Title	Contact Name	Stakeholder
		The Unicorns - Swimming Club for Disabled Persons (Tamworth)
		Tri-Links Medical Practice - Amington Medical Surgery
		Trinity Surgery
	Headteacher	Two Gates Primary School
		Volunteer Centre (Tamworth)
		Wellbeing Matters - South East Staffordshire
	Headteacher	William McGregor Primary School
		Wilnecote Community Leisure Centre
		Wilnecote Health Centre
	Headteacher	Wilnecote Junior School
		Wilnecote Parish Hall
	Headteacher	Woodlands Primary School
		WRVS (Tamworth)
County Councillor	Alastair Little	
	Alice Bishop	
	Allan Lunn	
	Andrew Graham Tilley	
Councillor	Andrew James	
County Councillor	Ben Adams	

Title	Contact Name	Stakeholder
Councillor	Ben Price	
	Bob Bayley	
Councillor	Chris Cooke	
	Christopher Pincher MP	
Councillor	Daniel Cook	
Councillor	Dennis Box	
	Gail Edwina Anne Bilcliff	
	Huw Loxton	
	Jan Wadrup	
County Councillor	Jason Jones	
Councillor	Jeremy Oates	
Councillor	John Chesworth	
Councillor	John Faulkner	
	John William Clarke	
Councillor	Ken Norchi	
	Lisa Jane Morris	
Councillor	Marie Bailey	
Councillor	Martin Summers	
Councillor	Michael Greatorex	
Councillor	Michael Oates	
Councillor	Michelle Thurgood	
Councillor	Moirra Greatorex	
Councillor	Patrick Standen	
Councillor	Paul Brindley	

Title	Contact Name	Stakeholder
	Paul David Millington	
Councillor	Peter Thurgood	
	Philip Young	
	Richard Carling	
Councillor	Richard Ford	
Councillor	Richard Kingstone	
Councillor	Robert Bilcliff	
Councillor	Robert Pritchard	
Councillor	Rosey Claymore	
Councillor	Roy Roger	
	Sarah Christine Daniels	
	Sheila Denise Bayley	
Councillor	Sheree Peaple	
Councillor	Simon Goodall	
Councillor	Simon Peaple	
Councillor	Stephen Doyle	
Councillor	Thomas Jay	
Councillor	Tina Clements	

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Appendix C - Summary of Submissions received by ward with Acting Returning Officer's comments

Polling Districts, Places and Stations Review 2019



Date	Polling Station	Ward	Comments	Acting Returning Officer's comments
19/07/2019		All wards	<p>Following the proposals for the Polling Station Review I have taken the time to consult with the Council Leader, Danny Cook as well as some of his colleagues. I completely support all of his and the Conservative groups suggestions which have been made in feedback from residents in the Tamworth area. Within the Belgrave Ward and Wilnecote Ward especially, there has been suitable expansions of polling areas allowing them to reflect the local geographical boundaries, due to them being better aligned within the area. The make-up of new polling districts within the Amington and Castle Ward would make them more accessible for constituents to vote, as it has improved parking facilities which are within walking distance, unlike their current positioning. Portable Polling Stations on Chiltern Road and in the Glascote Ward will allow them to be recentralised onto the estate to allow the population of the polling district to vote locally, without them having to travel too far to do so.</p>	<p>All submissions have been given careful consideration. Please see responses below.</p>

Date	Polling Station	Ward	Comments	Acting Returning Officer's comments
29/05/2019	Landau Forte - Greenacres	Amington	<p>There are proposals for a school in the new development within AM3. When this occurs it would enable GL1 to use AMINGTON HEATH and AM3 to use the new school. I understand residents in GL1 do complain about travelling to the Sacred Heart if they live close to Amington Heath School. We all have the option of postal voting if travel is difficult. The wards seem to be using in most cases a central point. It is a shame that schools are pre-dominantly used as the children lose a day of schooling.</p>	<p>It should be noted that although the Amington Ward currently uses three schools as polling stations the head teachers are informed of scheduled polls several years in advance thus allowing ample time to plan for a Teacher Training Inset Day. This should help keep disruption and inconvenience to a minimum. Whilst head teachers must provide the Returning Officer with a suitable room to facilitate voting it is not the Returning Officer who chooses to close the school. This is a decision taken by the head teacher and in fact a number of schools that are used as polling stations throughout the borough remain either fully or partially open on polling days.</p> <p>Schools are required under statute to be made available for voting purposes. This is partly due to the fact that as a public building the access must meet all requirements set out in the Equality Act 2010. Accessibility for disabled voters is a very important issue and ensuring that polling stations are suitable for all sorts of disability is essential. According to statistics provided by Staffordshire Observatory there are approximately 7,000 people within the borough who have mobility issues and an unknown number of people with other impediments. We must be very careful about not accidentally disenfranchising an elector as they are unable to access voting facilities easily. Section 16 of the Electoral Administration Act 2006 has placed a requirement on the local authority to review</p>

Date	Polling Station	Ward	Comments	Acting Returning Officer's comments
				the accessibility of all polling stations. A review is undertaken at every poll and a polling station questionnaire is available for completion by electors. No complaints have been received at any of the recent elections in regard to accessibility issues in the Amington Ward. Therefore, no changes are proposed to any of the polling stations currently used.
06/06/2019	Landau Forte - Greenacres	Amington	Whilst schools tend to be used, elections do disrupt education of students, whether or not the school remains open or closes and use of other public buildings would be unlikely to affect as many individuals as it does when schools are used.	Please see above.
01/07/2019		Amington	The current polling district for AM1 and AM2 do not reflect the local geographic boundaries. The boundary for AM1 be extended north to the Coventry Canal, east to Florendine Street, ten South to meet the Glascote boundary. This wouldn't change the polling station arrangements for electors but would better align with geographical boundaries. Agree with the make-up of AM5 polling district, the polling station should be the new school. The current arrangements are shown as appendix G and our proposal as appendix H.	It will be recommended that a small alteration to the boundaries between polling districts AM1 and AM2 be completed. This small change would not require an alteration to the current polling place but would better align the polling districts when taking into account the natural geography of the area and current ward boundaries. This means that the following streets would move from polling district AM2 to polling district AM1: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arden Close • Argyle Street - Numbers 114 to 120 (evens) • Beechwood Crescent • Bridge Street • Fairview Close • Florendine Street • Highfield Avenue • Monks Way • Sheepcote Lane – Numbers 105 –

Date	Polling Station	Ward	Comments	Acting Returning Officer's comments
				<p>117 (odds) and Numbers 156 to 168 (evens)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tamworth Road – Numbers 1 – 159 (odds) and 20 – 128 (evens). This is the section of Tamworth Road running from Argyle Street up to the canal bridge opposite Florendine Street) • The Riddings • Wesley Way • Woodhurst Close
18/07/2019		Amington	<p>The current polling district for Am1 and AM2 do not reflect the local geographic boundaries. The boundary for AM1 be extended north to the Coventry Canal, east to Florendine Street, ten South to meet the Glascote boundary. This wouldn't change the polling station arrangements for electors but would better align with geographical boundaries. Agree with the make-up of AM5 polling district, the polling station should be the new school. The current arrangements are shown as appendix G and our proposal as appendix H.</p>	Please see above.
03/06/2019	Birds Bush Primary School	Belgrave	<p>The disruption to children and families by using school as a polling station is not acceptable and creates issues between parents and the school and impacts on the children's education at a crucial time. As a headteacher, I am constantly informed about outcomes for children in Tamworth and the need for these to improve. The Government agenda on "Holidays in term time" has increased the stance on fining parents for taking children out of school - yet we are then expected to close the school for polling. This causes issues for parents, particularly working</p>	<p>It should be noted that although the Belgrave Ward currently uses two schools as polling stations the head teachers are informed of scheduled polls several years in advance thus allowing ample time to plan for a Teacher Training Inset Day. This should help keep disruption and inconvenience to a minimum. Whilst head teachers must provide Returning Officers with a suitable room to facilitate voting it is not the Returning Officer who chooses to close the school. This is a decision taken by</p>

Date	Polling Station	Ward	Comments	Acting Returning Officer's comments
			<p>parents and impacts on the educational entitlement of our pupils. May is a crucial time for our pupils as it is SATs and missing days is disruptive. Please consider alternative premises.</p>	<p>the head teacher in regard to safe guarding and in fact a number of schools that are used as polling stations throughout the borough remain either fully or partially open on polling days.</p> <p>Schools are required under statute to be made available for voting purposes. This is partly due to the fact that as a public building the access must meet all requirements set out in the Equality Act 2010. Accessibility for disabled voters is a very important issue and ensuring that the polling stations are suitable for all sorts of disability is essential. According to statistics provided by Staffordshire Observatory there are approximately 7,000 people within the borough who have mobility issues and an unknown number of people with other impediments. We must be very careful about not accidentally disenfranchising an elector as they are unable to access voting facilities easily. Section 16 of the Electoral Administration Act 2006 has placed a requirement on the local authority to review the accessibility of all polling stations. This review is undertaken at every poll and includes a polling station questionnaire that electors can complete if they wish to. No complaints have been received at the recent elections in regard to accessibility issues. Therefore, no changes are proposed to the current polling stations.</p>

Date	Polling Station	Ward	Comments	Acting Returning Officer's comments
11/06/2019	Lakeside Primary School	Belgrave	As headteacher of Lakeside School, I lost two days of education for pupils this year. While I appreciate this year was rather unique, as a school that cannot remain open when polling, it can disrupt the education for pupils. If an alternative is available please consider.	Please see above.
01/07/2019	Tamworth Baptist Church and Birds Bush Primary School	Belgrave	The development off Marlborough Way (The former Dalton Site) is in BE2 polling district and served by a polling station on Field Farm Road. The station is not within a short walking distance of the estate. The Old Dalton site should be its own polling district and use the Birds Bust Road polling Station. The location is 300m closer by foot and represents a feasible walking distance for electors. The current arrangements are shown as appendix I and our proposal as appendix J.	<p>It will be recommended that the development off Marlborough Way on the former Daltons Site moves from the BE2 polling district into the BE1 polling district. This will mean that the following streets will move from BE2 to BE1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Garten Close • Gowen Close • Harport Close • Harrow Close • Laggan Close • Leven Road • Lindores Road • Lowes Drive • Lyon Drive • Maree Walk • Morton Close
18/07/2019	Tamworth Baptist Church and Birds Bush Primary School	Belgrave	The development off Marlborough Way (The former Dalton Site) is in BE2 polling district and served by a polling station on Field Farm road. The station is not within a short walking distance of the estate. The Old Dalton site should be its own polling district and use the Birds Bust Road polling Station. The location is 300m closer by foot and represents a feasible walking distance for electors. The current arrangements are shown as appendix I and our proposal as appendix J.	Please see above.

Date	Polling Station	Ward	Comments	Acting Returning Officer's comments
10/06/2019	Woodlands Primary School	Bolehall	I don't feel a school should have to close for such a small electorate over 300 children miss school for far less people to attend and vote.	The Electoral Services Office contacted the Head Teacher at Woodlands Primary School via email prior to the end of the Summer Term to find if the Early Years part of the school could be utilised on polling day rather than the school hall. This would mean that only a small number of children would be affected and the head teacher would not feel the need to completely close on polling days. The Early Years area was used for the Thursday 23 May European Parliamentary Election and worked well.
01/07/2019		Bolehall	No changes	No comments have been received from electors at the recent polls requesting any changes and therefore, no change is proposed.
18/07/2019		Bolehall	No changes	No comments have been received from electors at the recent polls requesting any changes and therefore, no change is proposed.
29/05/2019	Community Meeting Room	Castle	No comments made.	No comments have been received from electors at the recent polls requesting any changes and therefore, no change is proposed.
29/05/2019	Community Meeting Room	Castle	No comments made.	No comments have been received from electors at the recent polls requesting any changes and therefore, no change is proposed.
30/05/2019	The Green - Temporary Polling Station	Castle	My working experience is only of Castle Ward - excellent	No comments have been received from electors at the recent polls requesting any changes and therefore, no change is proposed.

Date	Polling Station	Ward	Comments	Acting Returning Officer's comments
05/06/2019	Sunset Close Community Centre	Castle	Sunset Close has been used for many years as a polling station. There is disability ramped access to the front of the building and parking facilities albeit limited.	<p>Sunset Close Community Centre is a well-known and well used by the local community. It has recently, under gone some refurbishment. The building has suitable disabled access including ramps and has its own parking facilities including dedicated disabled parking facilities.</p> <p>The polling station is on a main bus route connecting different parts of the polling district. No comments have been received from electors at the recent polls in May 2019 regarding travelling distance or accessibility issues. Therefore, no change is recommended.</p>
21/06/2019	Sunset Close Community Centre	Castle	Submission on behalf of my mother who is disabled. She does like to vote in person rather than by post. She lives in Oxbridge Way. She finds the polling station she visits good and staff are very helpful. She does not recommend any changes. Mother finds it suitable for her needs.	Please see above.
01/07/2019		Castle	CA1 - Oxbridge Estate/Lichfield Road. The Dunstall Development means that the Castle Ward's CA1 polling district requires change to reflect the new development. The existing polling district should be rearranged as follows into three new polling districts. The river should act as a boundary dividing CA1 between the north and south side. The Oxbridge Estate/neighbouring properties in the Castle Ward should be its own polling district and provided with a closer polling station, this should be the station for ME5 (Buckingham Road). It has better parking and within walking distance, unlike the current polling station at Sunset Close. The Dunstall Lane Development should have its	This submission requesting that the Oxbridge Estate and neighbouring properties becomes a polling district in their own right with electors sent to the Buckingham Road temporary polling station (ME5) in the neighbouring Mercian Ward. On paper this seems quite a logical proposition and has been considered carefully but in reality there would be a number of issues. Firstly, it is not sensible to move electors from a disabled friendly building like Sunset Close Community Centre which has dedicated disabled access and has parking albeit limited to a temporary station which has none of these.

Date	Polling Station	Ward	Comments	Acting Returning Officer's comments
			<p>own polling district and the polling station located in the school. The remaining of the polling district (including the east of Tame Drive, and the residents properties should be a polling district still voting at sunset close remaining unchanged (Bitterscote Drive). The current arrangements are shown in appendix E and our proposal as appendix F.</p>	<p>These properties are situated on a convenient public transport route that stops and collects passengers on Lichfield Street at the end of Sunset Close. There are no transport links to the temporary station on Buckingham Road. A move here would also mean that electors would be need to cross a very busy road that is well used by heavy goods vehicles and others accessing the neighbouring industrial estate. There is no pedestrian crossing on this road to ensure that less able bodied electors could cross the road safely. A move here would also require another temporary polling station as the existing temporary station covering the ME5 polling district could not accommodate the additional electors from this area particularly at a high turnout election. The estimated cost for an additional temporary station is in the region of £1,300 or approximately £5 for every elector on this housing estate whether they vote at a polling station or not. Presently, only 289 out of 418 electors from this estate chose to vote at a polling station and turnout in 2019 at Sunset Close Community Centre for the entire CA1 polling district was an average of 17%. No issues were raised by electors regarding travelling or accessing the voting facilities at Sunset Close Community Centre at the recent elections.</p> <p>Temporary polling stations are only used where there is no suitable alternative in the locality. Although, temporary stations are suitably equipped to enable access for all</p>

Date	Polling Station	Ward	Comments	Acting Returning Officer's comments
				<p>voters (ramps and handrails for disabled access) there are still ongoing concerns due to the inherent characteristics of temporary stations, such as their narrow entrance and limited internal area and access issues from paths across uneven/muddy ground which is exacerbated if the weather is poor on or around polling day. If the Authority was to move away from a perfectly accessible building in favour of a temporary station so that the location is slightly more convenient it could open the door for a claim regarding disability discrimination. Complaints have been received regarding accessibility to the temporary station on Buckingham Road at the recent elections in May 2019. These complaints were in regard to the uneven surface surrounding the temporary station. Therefore, it is not practical to send more electors to a polling station where we are aware of accessibility issues and for this reason I am recommending a "no change" to the CA1 polling district.</p> <p>The estate currently being built on the former Dunstall Farm site will become the newly created CA5 polling district. The electorate in this polling district will be monitored and when required a polling station within the polling district or adjacent polling districts will be found. For this reason it is recommended that polling place represent the same area as the polling district plus the adjoining polling district(s) within the ward to allow a greater degree of flexibility in deciding where a polling station</p>

Date	Polling Station	Ward	Comments	Acting Returning Officer's comments
				<p>should be located should the need arise.</p> <p>The five other submissions were received regarding the remaining polling districts, places and stations in the Castle Ward all recommend "no change". Therefore, as there have also been no comments made by any electors asking for change at any of the recent elections or as part of this consultation it is recommended that the polling districts below do not have any changes made to them with the exception of the creation of the new CA5 polling district:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CA1 • CA2 • CA3 • CA4
18/07/2019		Castle	<p>CA1 - Oxbridge Estate/Lichfield Road. The Dunstall Lane Development means that the Castle Ward's CA1 polling district requires change to reflect the new development. The existing polling district should be rearranged as follows into three new polling districts. The river should act as a boundary dividing CA1 between the north and south side. The Oxbridge Estate/neighbouring properties in the Castle Ward should be its own polling district and provided with a closer polling station, this should be the station for ME5 (Buckingham Road). It has better parking and within walking distance, unlike the current polling station at Sunset Close. The Dunstall Lane Development should have its own polling district and the polling station located in the proposed school. The remainder of the polling district should continue to vote at Sunset</p>	Please see above.

Date	Polling Station	Ward	Comments	Acting Returning Officer's comments
			Close. The current arrangements are shown as appendix E and our proposal as appendix F. Fazeley Road and County Drive. This Polling District has had a new station location for several years and should remain unchanged. It is central to the polling district and works well.	
29/05/2019	Sacred Heart RC Church	Glascote	No comments made.	Currently, the GL1 polling district vote at the Sacred Heart RC Church on Silverlink Road. I believe that this building is ideal for voting purposes as it offers plenty of parking, included a number of dedicated disable parking bays and is on the number 7 bus route which runs regularly along Woodlands Road and Silverlink Road. The building is fully accessible and does no ramps are needed to aid access. Therefore, no change is proposed.
05/06/2019	Sacred Heart RC Church	Glascote	From an education perspective, I am glad that it is no longer held at school - no disruption.	Currently, the GL1 polling district vote at the Sacred Heart RC Church on Silverlink Road. I believe that this building is ideal for voting purposes as it offers plenty of parking, included a number of dedicated disable parking bays and is on the number 7 bus route which runs regularly along Woodlands Road and Silverlink Road. The building is fully accessible and does no ramps are needed to aid access. Therefore, no change is proposed.
01/07/2019	Sacred Heart RC Church	Glascote	Portable Polling Station for GL1. This estate should be served by a dedicated portable polling station on green. This is a central location for the estate. The current location is not central to the population of the polling district.	Currently, the GL1 polling district vote at the Sacred Heart RC Church on Silverlink Road. I believe that this building is ideal for voting purposes as it offers plenty of parking, included a number of dedicated disable parking bays and is on the number 7 bus route which runs regularly along Woodlands Road and Silverlink Road. The

Date	Polling Station	Ward	Comments	Acting Returning Officer's comments
				building is fully accessible and does no ramps are needed to aid access. It is not practical or sensible to move to a temporary station when an excellent building that meets the requirements set out in the Equality Act 2010 and that currently serves the community is available. The current location is well known and established to the community in the area. No electors have made any comments at the recent elections in May 2019 regarding travel or the location of this polling station. Therefore, the GL1 polling district will continue to vote at the Sacred Heart RC Church.
18/07/2019	Sacred Heart RC Church	Glascote	Portable Polling Station for GL1. This estate should be served by a dedicated portable polling station on the green. This is a central location for the estate. The current location is not central to the population of the polling district.	Please see above.
22/05/2019	Flaxhill Junior Academy	Mercian	They are used well and situated in lots of areas for people who can't travel far.	There are no other suitable buildings in the area and therefore, no changes are proposed for this area.
22/05/2019	Lark Hall Infants and Nursery Academy	Mercian	They are used well and situated in lots of areas for people who can't travel far.	There are no other suitable buildings in the area and therefore, no changes are proposed for this area.
01/07/2019		Mercian	No changes to polling districts and polling stations.	No comments have been received from electors at the recent polls requesting any changes and therefore, no change is proposed.
18/07/2019		Mercian	No changes proposed.	No comments have been received from electors at the recent polls requesting any changes and therefore, no change is proposed.

Date	Polling Station	Ward	Comments	Acting Returning Officer's comments
04/06/2019	St Andrew's Methodist Church Hall	Mercian	There should be two polling stations on Leyfields (ME1) as people will not walk a distance to vote.	The previous building where the polling station was located prior to 2017 is no longer available. The nearest suitable building is at St Andrew's Methodist Church Hall. No comments have been received from electors at the recent polls requesting any changes and therefore, no change is proposed.
29/05/2019	Moorgate Primary Academy	Mercian	Closing a school affect children's learning and affects routine if they have certain difficulties.	Moorgate Primary School does not close on polling day. The old school buildings have been condemned and so are unsuitable to use as a polling station. No comments have been received from electors at the recent polls requesting any changes and therefore, no change is proposed.
14/06/2019	Ashcroft Infants School	Spital	The school is well placed within the community and provides the only accessible public space.	No comments have been received from electors at the recent polls requesting any changes and therefore, no change is proposed.
01/07/2019		Spital	The ward has seen a new development approved and being built on Anker Valley (East of Derby Line). We propose that this polling district (SP6) development have its own polling station on or around the site of the school. A temporary station is used until the school is built.	Currently, the electorate is very small in this development. The polling district will be kept under review and once the electorate reaches a suitable level a polling station within the polling district will be used. It is not feasible at the moment to place a temporary station here as the estate is still a building site and open areas have no as yet been adopted by the local authority. It is recommended that the polling place for the SP6 ward is moved from its current location and relocated to Ashcroft Infants School.
18/07/2019		Spital	The ward has seen a new development, currently being built on Anker Valley. We propose that this polling district (SP6) has its own polling station on or around the site of the proposed school. A temporary station should be	Please see above.

Date	Polling Station	Ward	Comments	Acting Returning Officer's comments
			used until the school is built.	
06/06/2019	Pennymoor Community Hall	Stonydelph	I find the polling stations fine for what they are used for.	No comments have been received from electors at the recent polls requesting any changes and therefore, no change is proposed.
15/06/2019	Pennymoor Community Hall	Stonydelph	Ease of location and in most cases easy access.	No comments have been received from electors at the recent polls requesting any changes and therefore, no change is proposed.
01/07/2019	St Martin in the Delph Community Centre	Stonydelph	<p>Chiltern Road Estate - This estate should be served by a dedicated polling station located on the estate. The current location is not central to the population of the polling district, which is the Chiltern estate. If this requires the estate to become a separate polling district we would support this.</p> <p>Marrick - This street is geographically part of the Malham Road polling district, however it is in the adjacent polling district. We propose that the street is moved to ST2 from ST1, as this represents a better geographical alignment with the rest of Malham Road</p>	<p>Currently, the ST2 polling district vote at the St Martin in the Delph Community Centre on Ellerbeck. I believe that this building is ideal for voting purposes as it offers plenty of parking, included a number of dedicated disable parking bays and is accessible on foot from this housing estate via a number of routes including the pedestrian Stonydelph Lane. The building is fully accessible and with a ramp to the frontage to aid access.</p> <p>The only area of open space is the land adjacent to Broadlee. The widest access point is located by numbers 33 and 34 and it is highly unlikely that a HGV would be able to access the area due to its narrow entrance. This open space is located on a downhill slope although the green area is reasonable flat. This would mean that electors would have a fairly steep uphill walk after casting their vote. This could be an issue for anyone with mobility issues as</p>

Date	Polling Station	Ward	Comments	Acting Returning Officer's comments
				<p>there is not dedicated a dedicated parking bay and street parking is extremely limited.</p> <p>Due to the fact that I have concerns regarding accessibility for disabled electors and the fact that no comments have been received from electors at the recent polls requesting any changes and I therefore, propose no changes to this polling district except for the relocating of Marrick from ST2 to ST1.</p>
18/07/2019	St Martin in the Delph Community Centre	Stonydelph	<p>Chiltern Road Estate - This estate would be best served by a portable polling station. The current location is not central to the population of the polling district, which is the Chiltern estate.</p> <p>Marrick - The street is geographically part of the Malham Road polling district, however it is in an adjacent polling district. We propose that the street is moved from ST2 to ST1, to align it with the rest of Malham Road.</p>	Please see above.
17/06/2019	Two Gates Primary School. Dorcas Centre, Dorado - Temporary Station	Trinity	Two Gates Primary School should not be used as it has to be closed for the day.	It should be noted that although the Trinity Ward currently uses one school as polling station the head teacher is informed of scheduled polls several years in advance thus allowing ample time to plan for a Teacher Training Inset Day. This should help keep disruption and inconvenience to a minimum. Whilst head teachers must provide the Returning Officer with a suitable room to facilitate voting it is not the Returning Officer who chooses to close the school. This is a decision taken by the head teacher and in fact a number of schools that are used as polling stations throughout the borough remain either fully or partially open

Date	Polling Station	Ward	Comments	Acting Returning Officer's comments
				<p>on polling days.</p> <p>Schools are required under statute to be made available for voting purposes. This is partly due to the fact that as a public building the access must meet all requirements set out in the Equality Act 2010. Accessibility for disabled voters is a very important issue and ensuring that polling stations are suitable for all sorts of disability is essential. According to statistics provided by Staffordshire Observatory there are approximately 7,000 people within the borough who have mobility issues and an unknown number of people with other impediments. We must be very careful about not accidentally disenfranchising an elector as they are unable to access voting facilities easily. Section 16 of the Electoral Administration Act 2006 has placed a requirement on the local authority to review the accessibility of all polling stations. A review is undertaken at every poll and a polling station questionnaire is available for completion by electors. No complaints have been received at any of the recent elections in regard to accessibility issues in the Trinity Ward. Therefore, no changes are proposed to any of the polling stations currently used.</p>
01/07/2019		Trinity	No changes to polling districts and polling stations.	Please see above.
18/07/2019		Trinity	No changes proposed.	Please see above.
23/05/2019	Wilnecote Junior School and Heathfields Infants School	Wilnecote	Please stop using the primary and infants school for Polling Stations the children already have 14 weeks off a year. Please consider using the Wilnecote Parish hall or even Wilnecote Leisure	It should be noted that although the Wilnecote Ward currently uses two schools as polling station the head teachers are informed of scheduled polls several years in

Date	Polling Station	Ward	Comments	Acting Returning Officer's comments
			Centre. A mobile could go on car park. The new scout hut will be also ready very soon on Ninefoot park.	<p>advance thus allowing ample time to plan for a Teacher Training Inset Day. This should help keep disruption and inconvenience to a minimum. Whilst head teachers must provide the Returning Officer with a suitable room to facilitate voting it is not the Returning Officer who chooses to close the school. This is a decision taken by the head teacher and in fact a number of schools that are used as polling stations throughout the borough remain either fully or partially open on polling days.</p> <p>Schools are required under statute to be made available for voting purposes. This is partly due to the fact that as a public building the access must meet all requirements set out in the Equality Act 2010. Accessibility for disabled voters is a very important issue and ensuring that polling stations are suitable for all sorts of disability is essential. According to statistics provided by Staffordshire Observatory there are approximately 7,000 people within the borough who have mobility issues and an unknown number of people with other impediments. We must be very careful about not accidentally disenfranchising an elector as they are unable to access voting facilities easily. Section 16 of the Electoral Administration Act 2006 has placed a requirement on the local authority to review the accessibility of all polling stations. A review is undertaken at every poll and a polling station questionnaire is available for completion by electors. No complaints have</p>

Date	Polling Station	Ward	Comments	Acting Returning Officer's comments
				<p>been received at any of the recent elections in regard to accessibility issues in the Wilnecote Ward. Therefore, no changes are proposed to any of the polling stations currently used.</p> <p>The newly build Scout Hut adjacent to Ninefoot Park actually just falls into the Belgrave Ward. At present there is an uneven surface in the car park and there is no dedicated disabled parking bay. The car park is also utilised by the local businesses so parking in this location could potentially be an issue.</p> <p>Wilnecote Village Hall is too far away from the main population of the ward and there are no bus routes that would help facilitate the electorate to travel there.</p> <p>Therefore, at the present time I am proposing no changes to the current polling stations.</p>
01/07/2019		Wilnecote	<p>The current arrangements of polling districts do not align with the wards natural geography. Polling Districts should better reflect layout and makeup of housing estate. Currently the "Birds estates" are split over two polling districts (W14 and WI6). We suggest that these should be merged into 1 polling district. The current arrangements are shown as appendix A and our proposal as appendix B. Following the development on Hedging Lane, we proposed that WI3 should be extended south to include the new development on Hedging Lane, they are currently in WI5. It would make more sense for</p>	<p>After looking at the map it seems sensible to combine polling districts WI4 and WI6. These will be combined and will be renamed WI4. The polling district will still vote at Heathfields Infants School.</p> <p>The amendment to the WI5 and WI3 polling district seems as sensible solution and the remainder of Hedging Lane including the part of Hockley Road will be incorporated into the WI3 polling district.</p>

Date	Polling Station	Ward	Comments	Acting Returning Officer's comments
			these residents to use the nearby polling station in WI3. The current arrangements are shown as appendix C and our proposal as appendix D.	
18/07/2019		Wilnecote	The current arrangements of polling districts do not align with the wards natural geography. Polling Districts should better reflect layout and makeup of housing estate. Currently the "Birds" estates are split over two polling districts (W14 and WI5). We suggest that these should be merged into 1 polling district. The current arrangements are shown as appendix A and our proposal as appendix B. Following the development on Hedging Lane, we proposed that WI3 should be extended south to include the new development on Hedging Lane, they are currently in WI5. It would make more sense for these residents to use the nearby polling station in WI3. The current arrangements are shown as appendix C and our proposal as appendix D.	Please see above.

Polling Districts, Places and Stations Review 2019

Polling District

A polling district is a geographical subdivision of an electoral area. For example a parliamentary constituency or a borough ward.

Polling Place

A polling place is the area in which the Returning Officer selects the polling station. In Tamworth, it will be recommended that polling places represent the same area as the polling district plus the adjoining polling district(s) to allow a greater degree of flexibility in deciding where a polling station should be located.

Polling Station

The polling station is the room or building where the poll takes place. This location is selected by the Returning Officer.

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Community Impact Assessment

Part 1 – Details		
What Policy/ Procedure/ Strategy/Project/Service is being assessed?	Polling district, polling places and polling station review	
Date Conducted	May 2019	
Name of Lead Officer and Service Area	Bernie Flanagan – Senior Elections Officer Electoral Services	
Commissioning Team (if applicable)		
Director Responsible for project/service area	Andrew Barratt	
Who are the main stakeholders	Electors	
Describe what consultation has been undertaken. Who was involved and what was the outcome	Public consultation began on Tuesday 28 May and concluded on Friday 19 July. A range of stakeholders, groups and individuals were invited to take part in the consultation. These ranged from councillors, political parties to groups and individuals with expertise in accessibility issues.	
Outline the wider research that has taken place (E.G. commissioners, partners, other providers etc)	Polling Station Questionnaire Polling Station Inspector Reports Presiding Officer Report Polling Station suitability surveys Public consultation	
What are you assessing? Indicate with an 'x' which applies	A decision to review or change a service	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	A Strategy/Policy/Procedure	<input type="checkbox"/>
	A function, service or project	<input type="checkbox"/>
What kind of assessment is it? Indicate with an 'x' which applies	New	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Existing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Being reviewed	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Being reviewed as a result of budget constraints / End of Contract	<input type="checkbox"/>

Part 2 – Summary of Assessment

Give a summary of your proposal and set out the aims/ objectives/ purposes/ and outcomes of the area you are impact assessing.

In accordance with the Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013, a review has been completed of all of the polling district and polling places within the borough of Tamworth.

Guidance produced by the Electoral Commission sets out the process for a review, and this has been followed.

A number of changes have been recommended as part of the review.

Who will be affected and how?

Electors – the review may affect:

- where they cast their vote on polling day;
- what polling district they are in.

Are there any other functions, policies or services linked to this impact assessment?

Yes No

If you answered 'Yes', please indicate what they are?

Part 3 – Impact on the Community

Thinking about each of the Areas below, does or could the Policy function, or service have a direct impact on them?

Impact Area	Yes	No	Reason (provide brief explanation)
Age	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Disability	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	To ensure that reasonable accessibility is provided to disabled persons in regard to polling stations.
Gender Reassignment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Marriage & Civil Partnership	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Pregnancy & Maternity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Race	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Religion or belief	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Sexual orientation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Sex	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Impact Area	Yes	No	Reason (provide brief explanation)
Gypsy/Travelling Community	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Those with Caring/Dependent responsibilities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Those having an offending past	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Children	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Vulnerable Adults	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Families	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Those who are homeless	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Those on low income	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Those with Drug or Alcohol problems	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Those with Mental Health issues	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Those with Physical Health issues	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	To ensure that reasonable accessibility is provided to disabled persons in regard to polling stations.
Other (Please Detail)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Part 4 – Risk Assessment

From evidence given from previous question, please detail what measures or changes will be put in place to mitigate adverse implications

<i>Impact Area</i>	<i>Details of the Impact</i>	<i>Action to reduce risk</i>
Electors	<p>To remove as far as practicable barriers to voting at a polling station with particular regard given to accessibility issues.</p> <p>To provide convenient and accessibly voting facilities so that electors can easily cast their vote.</p> <p>To prevent accidentally disenfranchising an elector as they are unable to access voting facilities easily. Ensuring that all locations meet the recommendations set out in legislation, complies with guidance produced by the Electoral Commission and SCOPE in the Polls Apart 2010 report.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete a of survey polling stations regularly to ensure that they meet the needs of electors especially those with accessibility issues. Use to inform future planning. • Polling Station Questionnaire for electors Use to inform future planning. • Presiding Officer Report – highlighting any issues on polling day and measures take to rectify. Use to inform future planning. • Review the polling station arrangements regularly.

Part 5 - Action Plan and Review

Detail in the plan below, actions that you have identified in your CIA, which will eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and/or foster good relations.

If you are unable to eliminate or reduce negative impact on any of the impact areas, you should explain why

Impact (positive or negative) identified	Action	Person(s) responsible	Target date	Required outcome
Accessibility in regard to polling stations	Check that all locations meet the recommendations set out in legislation, complies with guidance produced by the Electoral Commission and SCOPE in the Polls Apart 2010 report.	Returning Officer	Ongoing – polling stations are reviewed at every poll.	Identify any accessibility issues and rectify e.g. supply of ramps.
	Public consultation	Chief Executive	As required by statute	That all steps set out in legislation are followed.
	Polling Station questionnaire are available at each poll	Returning Officer	Ongoing – polling stations are reviewed at every poll.	Allows electors to make a comment regarding their polling station while the issue is fresh. Records issues to inform future planning.
	Polling Station Inspector (PSI) Report	Returning Officer	Ongoing – polling stations are reviewed at every poll.	PSI's complete a report regarding the polling station throughout the day at each poll. This allows any issues to be resolved quickly. Records issues to inform future planning.

Impact (positive or negative) identified	Action	Person(s) responsible	Target date	Required outcome
	Presiding Officer Report	Returning Officer	Ongoing – polling stations are reviewed at every poll.	PSI's complete a report regarding the polling station throughout the day at each poll. This allows any issues to be resolved quickly. Can also record comments from electors or other stakeholders. Records issues to inform future planning.

Date of Review (If applicable): All polling stations will be reviewed after each poll.

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