Review of polling districts and polling places in Oadby & Wigston

The reason for a review
Under the Representation of the People Act 1983, the Council has a duty to divide the borough into polling districts and to designate a polling place for each district. It also has to keep these arrangements under review.

The arrangements made for parliamentary elections are also used at other elections.

The Council has powers to change polling places and polling district boundaries, but not Ward boundaries.

How the review is conducted
In general terms, the Council announces that a review is to take place. The Council consults the Returning Officer, who makes representations on existing and proposed polling arrangements. The Council publishes the Returning Officer’s proposals and invites comments. These are considered before final decisions are made.

The consultation must actively seek comments from people who have particular expertise in relation to access to premises or facilities for persons who have different forms of disability.

Any elector may make representations. Although not specifically required in law, the consultation will consider the views of local political parties and elected representatives.

The role of the Electoral Commission
The Commission has no role in the review process itself. However, it can consider comments if people do not think the review has met the reasonable requirements of electors or taken sufficient account of the needs of disabled electors.

The following people can “appeal” to The Commission:

- 30 or more registered electors
- any person who made comments during the review
- any non-elector who has expertise in access to premises or facilities for disabled people.

As a result, the Commission may direct the Council to alter polling arrangements arising from the review, and can make these alterations itself if the Council does not do so within two months.
**Timetable for this review**

- Notice of start of review: 4 December 2013
- Publication of the Returning Officer’s proposals: 5 December 2013
- Comments from consultation to be received by: 23 January 2014
- Report to Council: 25 February 2014

**Making comments**

The Returning Officer is proposing to keep the existing polling arrangements and to make minimal changes only where circumstances require.

However, if someone wishes to make major alterations, they should contact Electoral Services as soon as possible, in order to allow for further and wider consultation.

Comments do not have to be restricted to alternative proposals; comments that support the Returning Officer’s proposals are also welcome in order to receive a balance of opinions.

Comments should be made in writing to:

Electoral and Democratic Services Officer
Electoral Services
Council Offices
Station Road
Wigston
LE18 2DR
electoral.services@oadby-wigston.gov.uk

Throughout the review, all working papers and correspondence will be available for public inspection at the Council Offices. All items will be published when the review has been completed.
The Returning Officer’s proposals
A significant review in 2002 was necessary because of major changes to ward boundaries decided by the then Local Government Commission. Since then, the Council has undertaken public consultation exercises on polling arrangements in 2007 and 2010 and kept arrangements under review. For this reason, it is intended to keep changes to a minimum, and only suggest alternatives where necessary.

Guidelines
The following considerations have been taken into account when drawing up the proposals. When making comments during the consultation, consideration should be given to the following. The first two are required by electoral law; the others are guidelines, not strict rules.

- The Council must seek to ensure that all electors have such reasonable facilities for voting as are practicable in the circumstances.
- The Council must seek to ensure that so far as is reasonable and practicable every polling place is accessible to electors who are disabled.
- Ideally the polling place should be in its own polling district.
- Ideally there should be 2000-2500 electors per polling district.
- No polling place should be shared by two wards.
- Where possible “natural” boundaries should be used, eg railways, major roads, waterways.
- All properties in a minor road or estate should be in the same polling district.
- Polling places should be “logical”; that is, electors should not have to pass another polling place to get to their own place.

The tables
Each ward is dealt with separately. For existing polling arrangements, the tables show:

- The polling district
- The number of electors as at 1 November 2013 (the most recent monthly update)
- The polling place
- Disabled access, including where this is achieved by use of a temporary ramp

An access audit has been carried out at all polling places taking account of the needs of disabled voters.

Each polling district is indicated by its distinctive letter on the relevant map. For example, ‘H’ indicates polling district ‘H’, which is in Wigston St Wolstans Ward.

Maps of each of the polling districts are available at the following link:

A map showing the boundaries of wards in Oadby and Wigston is appended at the back of this document.
### Oadby St Peters

#### Existing arrangements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Polling district</th>
<th>Electors</th>
<th>Polling Place</th>
<th>Disabled access</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>1865</td>
<td>Methodist Church Hall, Harborough Road</td>
<td>Via side entrance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>1591</td>
<td>United Reformed Church Hall, Rosemead Drive</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Returning officer’s comments

The polling station for Polling District No.1 (A), Methodist Church Hall, on Harborough Road presents access issues for disabled voters, which make it unsuitable as a polling station.

#### Returning officer’s proposals

The Walter Charles Centre, on Wigston Road, Oadby is designated as a polling station for the Polling District No. 1 (A). It is a Council owned facility and provides better access for electors. The building is more central to the polling district and has its own parking facilities.

### Oadby Grange

#### Existing arrangements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Polling district</th>
<th>Electors</th>
<th>Polling Place</th>
<th>Disabled access</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>1969</td>
<td>Immaculate Conception Church Hall, New Street</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>3501</td>
<td>Fields House, Manor Road</td>
<td>Yes – lift to first floor</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Returning officer’s comments

The polling place for Polling District No.1 & 2 (D), Fields House, on Manor Road, has been converted into offices and is no longer suitable as a polling station. Efforts have been made to identify a satisfactory alternative to this building. Rooms on the first floor of John Foster Hall have been identified as a potential alternative polling station and were used for the recent County Council elections held in May 2013. These rooms are not ideal, by virtue of them being situated on the first floor. However, restrictions on hours of availability for university facilities identifies them as the best option.

#### Returning officer’s proposals

That John Foster Hall is designated as the polling place for polling district D. It is proposed that consideration is given to looking for a more appropriate and accessible polling station hereafter.
Oadby Uplands

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Polling district</th>
<th>Electors</th>
<th>Polling Place</th>
<th>Disabled access</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>E</td>
<td>3490</td>
<td>The Barnabas Centre, St. Paul’s Close</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Returning officer’s proposals

No change.

Oadby Woodlands

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Polling district</th>
<th>Electors</th>
<th>Polling Place</th>
<th>Disabled access</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>3580</td>
<td>Woodland Grange C.P. School, Beaufort Way</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Returning officer’s Comments

The polling station for Polling District No.1 (F), Woodland Grange C.P School, Beaufort Way is a primary school. Comments have been received from the school expressing concerns about the disruption to the education of children by the school being used as a polling district.

Comments were received from an elector at the County Council elections in May 2013 in respect of poor access for disabled voters due an incline in the pathway leading to the school.

Efforts have been made to identify a satisfactory alternative to this building. There are no other buildings within the polling district that are suitable and several buildings adjoining the polling district have also been considered but have been found to be unsuitable for polling station use.

Returning officer’s proposals

No change in that the Woodland Grange School continues to be used as a polling station.
## Oadby Brocks Hill

### Existing arrangements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Polling Place</th>
<th>Disabled access</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>G</td>
<td>3169</td>
<td>The Pavilion, Coombe Park, Coombe Rise</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Returning officer’s Proposals

No change.

## Wigston St Wolstans

### Existing arrangements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>H</td>
<td>1887</td>
<td>Freer Centre, Leicester Road</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I</td>
<td>1798</td>
<td>Glenmere C.P. School, Estoril Avenue</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J</td>
<td>1583</td>
<td>Freer Centre, Leicester Road</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Returning Officers Comments

The polling station for Polling District No.2 (I), Glenmere C.P. School, Estoril Avenue is a primary school. A number of letters have been received from a parent within the polling district expressing concerns about the disruption to the education of children by the school being used as a polling place. Efforts have been made to identify a satisfactory alternative to this building. Several buildings adjoining the polling district have been considered but have been found to be less suitable for polling station use.

### Returning officer’s proposals

No change in that the Glenmere C.P. School continues to be used as an appropriate polling station.
**Wigston Meadowcourt**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Existing arrangements</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Polling district</td>
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<tr>
<td>K</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Returning officer’s comments**

The polling station for Polling District No.1 (K), Meadow C.P School, Meadow Way is a primary school. Comments have been received from a parent within the polling district expressing concerns about the disruption to the education of children by the school being used as a polling place. Efforts have been made to identify a satisfactory alternative to this building. There are no other buildings within the polling district that are suitable and several buildings adjoining the polling district have also been considered but have been found to be unsuitable for polling station use.

The polling station for Polling District No.2 (L), the Girl Guide Clubroom, on Welford Road, is far from ideal, as it is situated on the busy A5199 road and has no off street parking. Efforts have been made to identify a satisfactory alternative to this building. There are no other buildings within the polling district that are suitable and several buildings adjoining the polling district have also been considered but have been found to be unsuitable for polling station use.

**Returning officer’s proposals**

No change in that for both of the above polling stations, the Meadow C.P. School and Girl Guide Clubroom continue to be used as appropriate polling stations.

**Wigston All Saints**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Existing arrangements</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Polling district</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Returning officer’s proposals**

No change.
## Wigston Fields

### Existing arrangements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Polling district</th>
<th>Electors</th>
<th>Polling Place</th>
<th>Disabled access</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>O</td>
<td>2064</td>
<td>Central Avenue Christian Church Hall, Central Avenue</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P</td>
<td>2999</td>
<td>Bethel Evangelical Free Church Hall, Burleigh Avenue</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Returning officer’s proposals

No change

## South Wigston

### Existing arrangements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Polling district</th>
<th>Electors</th>
<th>Polling Place</th>
<th>Disabled access</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Q</td>
<td>1902</td>
<td>Bassett Centre, Bassett Street, South Wigston</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R</td>
<td>1509</td>
<td>The Pavilion, Blaby Road Park</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S</td>
<td>2556</td>
<td>Community Wing, Fairfield C.P. School, Cheshire Drive</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Returning officer’s comments

No change.