



<b>Full Council</b>	<b>Tuesday, 10 December 2024</b>	<b>Matter for Information and Decision</b>
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**Report Title:** **Review of Designation of Polling Place for  
Polling Districts N1 & N2 (Wigston All Saints)**

**Report Author(s):** **Samuel Ball (Legal & Democratic Services Manager / Deputy  
Monitoring Officer) (Deputy Acting Returning Officer)**

<b>Purpose of Report:</b>	To seek Council's approval on the alternative designation being proposed by the (Acting) Returning Officer (the "ARO") for the Harborough, Oadby and Wigston Constituency in respect of the polling place to be used at future elections and referenda that take place within the Borough of Oadby and Wigston for Polling Districts N1 and N2 only.
<b>Report Summary:</b>	The ARO proposes to re-designate Little Hill Primary School on Launceston Road, Wigston, Leicestershire, LE18 2GZ as the polling place for electors residing in Polling Districts N1 and N2 (Wigston All Saints) in lieu of All Saints Church of England Primary School on Long Street, Wigston, Leicestershire, LE18 2AH to respond to elector feedback provided at the Police & Crime Commissioner election in May 2024 and the UK Parliamentary (General) Election in July 2024.
<b>Recommendation(s):</b>	<b>A. The content of the report and appendices be noted; and B. The Council approves the re-designation of Little Hill Primary School on Launceston Road, Wigston, Leicestershire, LE18 2GZ for electors residing in Polling Districts N1 and N2.</b>
<b>Senior Leadership, Head of Service, Manager, Officer and Other Contact(s):</b>	<p>Anne Court (Chief Executive / Head of Paid Service) (Acting Returning Officer) (0116) 257 2602 <a href="mailto:anne.court1@oadby-wigston.gov.uk">anne.court1@oadby-wigston.gov.uk</a></p> <p>David Gill (Head of Law &amp; Democracy / Monitoring Officer) (Deputy Acting Returning Officer) (0116) 257 2626 <a href="mailto:david.gill@oadby-wigston.gov.uk">david.gill@oadby-wigston.gov.uk</a></p> <p>Samuel Ball (Legal &amp; Democratic Services Manager / Deputy Monitoring Officer) (Deputy Acting Returning Officer) (0116) 257 2643 <a href="mailto:samuel.ball@oadby-wigston.gov.uk">samuel.ball@oadby-wigston.gov.uk</a></p>
<b>Strategic Objectives:</b>	Our Council (SO1) Our Communities (SO2) Our Partners (SO5)
<b>Vision and Values:</b>	"Our Borough - The Place To Be" (Vision) Customer & Community Focused (V1)
<b>Report Implications:-</b>	

Legal:	There are no implications directly arising from this report.
Financial:	There are no implications directly arising from this report.
Corporate Risk Management:	Regulatory Governance (CR6)
Equalities and Equalities Assessment (EA):	There are no implications directly arising from this report. EA not applicable.
Human Rights:	There are no implications arising from this report.
Health and Safety:	There are no implications arising from this report.
<b>Statutory Officers' Comments:-</b>	
Head of Paid Service:	The report is satisfactory.
Chief Finance Officer:	The report is satisfactory.
Monitoring Officer:	The report is satisfactory.
<b>Consultees:</b>	None.
<b>Background Papers:</b>	<a href="#">Report entitled 'Review of Polling Districts, Polling Places and Polling Stations, Full Council' to Full Council on Tuesday 28 November 2023</a>
<b>Appendices:</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Polling District N1 (Map)</li> <li>2. Polling District N2 (Map)</li> </ol>

## 1. Background

- 1.1 At an extraordinary meeting of the Full Council on 28 November 2023, Members approved the Polling District, Polling Places and Polling Station arrangements proposed by the (Acting) Returning Officer ("the ARO") following a statutory review of the same ("the 2023 Review").
- 1.2 This approval included the designation of All Saints Church of England Primary School on Long Street, Wigston, Leicestershire, LE18 2AH as the polling place for electors residing in Polling Districts N1 and N2 situated in the Wigston All Saints Ward ("the Existing Polling Place").
- 1.3 In doing so, Members accepted the representations made by Councillor Charlesworth for and on behalf of the three Ward Councillors for the Wigston All Saints, who at the time cited proximity concerns and preferred a polling place venue closer to the Wigston town centre.

## 2. Information

- 2.1 At both the Police & Crime Commissioner Election held on 2 May 2024 and the UK Parliamentary (General) Election held on 4 July 2024, the overwhelming feedback received from most electors attending the Existing Polling Place - the majority of whom reside and travelled from the south-westerly corner of the Little Hill Estate - was that it was inconveniently located too far from the bulk of properties situated in Polling District N1.
- 2.2 In consideration of the elector feedback received, the ARO undertook a statistical analysis of the electorate by street level in both Polling Districts N1 and N2 to determine where the bulk of electors resided and their relative walking distance(s) to/from the Existing Polling Place

and to/from the Little Hill Primary School on Launceston Road, Wigston, Leicestershire, LE18 2GZ ("the Proposed Polling Place") on the assumption that most electors attend on foot.

<b>N1 - Wigston All Saints</b>				
<b>Street</b>	<b>Properties</b>	<b>Electors</b>	<b>All Saints (miles)</b>	<b>Little Hill (miles)</b>
<b>Alderstone Close</b>	12	24	1	0.2
<b>Ashton Close</b>	8	10	0.7	0.2
<b>Barton Close</b>	8	16	0.7	0.1
<b>Blunts Lane</b>	34	48	0.3	0.6
<b>Buckfast Close</b>	21	28	0.7	0.2
<b>Bude Road</b>	2	6	0.5	0.4
<b>Bushloe End</b>	19	41	0.4	0.5
<b>Camborne Close</b>	21	36	0.7	0.2
<b>Cawsand Road</b>	16	29	0.7	0.1
<b>Cedar Avenue</b>	21	31	0.4	0.5
<b>Central Avenue</b>	80	129	0.4	0.6
<b>Collaton Road</b>	29	51	0.5	0.4
<b>Cross Street</b>	20	24	0.4	0.6
<b>Davenport Road</b>	64	89	0.5	0.4
<b>Falmouth Drive</b>	63	122	0.6	0.5
<b>Gas Lane</b>	1	1	0.4	0.3
<b>Helston Close</b>	13	25	0.8	0.2
<b>Honiton Close</b>	15	27	0.8	>0.1
<b>Kenton Avenue</b>	11	21	0.7	0.2
<b>Launceston Road</b>	32	49	0.6	0.2
<b>Laverstock Road</b>	18	28	0.9	0.1
<b>Long Street</b>	39	74	0.2	0.6
<b>Longford Close</b>	6	12	0.9	0.2
<b>Moat Street</b>	82	124	0.4	0.5
<b>Newbury Close</b>	7	18	0.8	0.2
<b>Newgate End</b>	33	50	0.5	0.4
<b>Parlour Close</b>	21	21	0.5	0.5
<b>Peacock Place</b>	29	45	0.4	0.6
<b>Penryn Drive</b>	6	11	0.6	0.3
<b>Pensilva Close</b>	22	40	0.8	0.2
<b>Penzance Avenue</b>	71	135	0.6	0.4

<b>Pitton Close</b>	24	47	1	0.2
<b>Pochins Close</b>	41	52	0.5	0.3
<b>Rectory Close</b>	22	25	0.5	0.4
<b>Redruth Avenue</b>	40	62	0.8	0.2
<b>Ringwood Close</b>	7	9	0.9	0.2
<b>Salcombe Close</b>	22	35	0.6	0.2
<b>Saltash Close</b>	13	21	0.6	0.3
<b>Seaton Road</b>	109	204	0.7	0.2
<b>Sherford Close</b>	12	21	0.5	0.3
<b>St. Ives Road</b>	63	122	0.6	0.4
<b>Station Road</b>	31	53	0.7	0.5
<b>Taunton Close</b>	17	35	0.8	0.1
<b>Tremaine Drive</b>	11	20	0.5	0.3
<b>Truro Drive</b>	27	56	0.7	0.4
<b>Wellhouse Close</b>	28	57	0.9	0.2
<b>Willow Place</b>	11	12	0.2	0.6
<b>Wimborne Close</b>	6	9	0.8	0.2
Other Electors	-	6	-	-
<b>Total (N1)</b>	<b>1,308</b>	<b>2,211</b>	<b>1 (average)</b>	<b>0.3 (average)</b>

<b>N2 - Wigston All Saints</b>				
<b>Street</b>	<b>Properties</b>	<b>Electors</b>	<b>All Saints (miles)</b>	<b>Little Hill (miles)</b>
<b>Aylestone Lane</b>	81	104	0.5	1.1
<b>Bell Street</b>	12	5	0.3	0.9
<b>Central Avenue</b>	4	6	0.4	0.6
<b>Elizabeth Court</b>	80	95	0.1	0.7
<b>Leicester Road</b>	4	4	0.6	1.2
<b>Long Street</b>	11	12	0.2	0.6
<b>Paddock Street</b>	76	61	0.2	0.7
Other Electors	-	0	-	-
<b>Total (N2)</b>	<b>268</b>	<b>287</b>	<b>0.3 (average)</b>	<b>0.8 (average)</b>

- 2.3 The statistical analysis confirmed that the bulk of electors do reside in Polling District N1 and their relative walking distance(s) to/from the Existing Polling Place compared to that to/from the Proposed Polling Place, on average, is considerably shorter thereby indicating that the Proposed Polling Place would be better situated for most (albeit not all) electors.

- 2.4 As the Proposed Polling Place was originally proposed in the 2023 Review's 'Draft Comments & Proposals' stage as the ARO's preferred polling place venue, a previous assessment was undertaken in October 2023 which identified the hall, a self-contained area with direct access and /egress for electors and polling staff, as the most appropriate room for polling purposes.
- 2.5 On 11 September 2024, [a special "mock" election organised by the Council's Electoral Services Team was hosted at Little Hill Primary School](#) – for pupils, parents, teachers and governors to "elect" their new house names - which emulated the near identical polling place set-up and arrangements as would be adopted at a real election and/or referendum. The event reaffirmed the ARO's earlier assessment that there are reasonable facilities for voting.
- 2.6 On 21 November 2024, a discussion with the school's current Head Teacher and Premises Manager also indicated the use of the hall would not significantly impact the school's day-to-day operations. As such, a partial or full school closure would therefore not be required on polling day: notwithstanding that any school closure remains in the Head Teacher's discretion.

### **3. Alternative Polling Place Option(s)**

- 3.1 The ARO understands that the former Elms Social and Service Club on Bushloe End, Wigston, Leicestershire, LE18 2BA – as the previous designated polling place prior to the 2023 Review – to date remains an unavailable and otherwise unviable alternative polling place venue for the same reasons as set out in the 2023 Review's 'Final Comments & Proposals' stage.

### **4. Proposed Change and Implementation**

- 4.1 For the reasons above, The ARO proposes to re-designate Little Hill Primary School on Launceston Road, Wigston, Leicestershire, LE18 2GZ as the polling place for electors residing in Polling Districts N1 and N2 (Wigston All Saints) in lieu of All Saints Church of England Primary School on Long Street, Wigston, Leicestershire, LE18 2AH. If approved, the Proposed Polling Place will be used for all scheduled and non-scheduled elections with immediate effect.