

Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places

Consultation Paper

Consultation Period runs from 1 September 2022 to 30 September 2022



1. Background to the Review

Under the Representation of the People Act 1983, the council has a duty to divide its area into polling districts and to designate a polling place for each district for Parliamentary elections. The arrangements made for parliamentary elections are also used at other elections, and the council must keep the arrangements under review.

The Electoral Administration Act 2006 (as amended) introduced a duty on all local authorities in Great Britain to review their polling districts and polling places at least once every five years. Local authorities may carry out interim reviews of polling arrangements between the statutory reviews.

Following the last statutory review in 2021, comments were received regarding the arrangements in Ecclesall and Manor Castle wards, and the (Acting) Returning Officer and Sheffield City Council agreed these would be reviewed following the elections on 6 May 2022.

2. Boundary changes

The Parliamentary Boundary Commission for England concluded its consultation on new review into parliamentary constituency boundaries on 3 August 2021. They are now preparing the feedback for publication and a secondary consultation period. This polling district and polling place review will proceed using the current parliamentary boundaries.

Electors will continue to be electors of their current polling district in the event of any local by-election occurring before 1 December 2022. For elections taking place after this date, and following approval of the new polling district scheme, the new polling districts will be used.

Neither the ward boundaries, nor the parliamentary constituency boundaries, can be changed as part of the council's review of polling districts and polling places, as they are the responsibility of the relevant Boundary Commission.

3. Definitions

“Polling districts” are geographical electoral areas into which wards, and constituencies, may be sub-divided. In areas with parishes, each parish should consist of whole polling districts.

“Polling places” are the buildings or areas designated by the council where electors in a polling district go to vote in person.

The polling place should in normal circumstances be situated within the polling district for which it is designated, but in some circumstances, for example where no suitable polling place can be found, then the polling place may be designated outside the polling district. In some cases this may mean that more than one polling district is served by the same polling place.

“Polling stations” are the number of issuing desks in the building that is the designated polling place, which generally range from one to three. The Returning Officer determines the number of polling stations depending on the electorate at a particular election. Wherever possible there should be no more than 2,500 electors (excluding postal voters) allotted to a polling station.

4. The Review Process

A preliminary review has been undertaken by council officers to inform the proposals. Representations of the (Acting) Returning Officer have been included in this consultation paper. The council invites comments on these proposals.

The main issues considered in the development of the proposals were:

- a) To try and identify new polling places in areas where the existing provision is unsuitable or unavailable.
- b) To consider, as appropriate, feedback received following recent elections raised by members of the public, elected members and other stakeholders.
- c) To ensure, as far as practicable, that any new polling places are accessible to people with disabilities.
- d) To ensure that all electors have such reasonable facilities for voting as are practicable in the circumstances.
- e) To try to minimise disruption to schools. It should be noted that the (Acting) Returning Officer is entitled to use schools and academies free of charge¹. However, where alternative premises exist which can provide better facilities for voting, they may be considered.

The council is required to publish a notice of the holding of a review. Information about the review is made available on the council's website. The consultation paper will be sent to councillors, Members of Parliament, local political parties, parish councils, and any other interested groups or persons, including those who have particular expertise in relation to access to premises or facilities for persons who have different forms of disability.

5. Making comments

The council would welcome comments on the proposals. We would encourage anyone making representations to suggest alternative polling districts or places to those proposed where appropriate, along with their reasons, so that they may be given full consideration.

Anyone registered as an elector in the Sheffield Central or Sheffield Hallam, constituencies may make representations to the council. Please note that all representations are required by law to be published.

Representations will also be considered from persons who have particular expertise in relation to access to premises or facilities for person who have different forms of disability.

Any representations must be made in writing and must be received by **Friday 30 September 2022**.

You can respond to this consultation online at www.sheffield.gov.uk/pollingreview or by completing the sheet at Appendix 1 and sending by post to:

Electoral Services, Town Hall, Pinstone Street, Sheffield, S1 2HY

¹ Rule 22, Sch 1, Representation of the People Act 1983

6. The Review Timetable

Publication of notice of review	1 September 2022
Publication of consultation paper including (Acting) Returning Officer's proposals	1 September 2022
Closing date for representations	30 September 2022
Council meeting – ratification of polling district and polling changes	2 November 2022
Publication of Electoral Register on new wards and polling district boundaries	1 December 2022
Sheffield City Council and Combined Authority Mayoral elections	Thursday 4 May 2023

7. Completion of review

The council will publish:

- The results of the review
- The minutes of council meetings concerning the review
- All correspondence received in connection with the review
- All representations made by any person in connection with the review

8. Role of the Electoral Commission

The council will follow guidance issued by the Electoral Commission in undertaking the review.

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

The following people can make representations to the Electoral Commission:

- 30 or more registered electors
- any person who made comments during the review
- any parish council or parish meeting for the area
- any non-electors who the Commission feels has sufficient interest in the accessibility of disabled persons

The Electoral Commission has the ability to direct the council to make alterations to polling places if it thinks that is necessary.

Polling station scheme and proposed changes

Electorates as at 1 June 2022 (electorate figures are approximate in the case of new / amended polling districts)

1 - City Ward (Sheffield Central Constituency)

Polling District	Parish	Electorate (excluding postal voters)	Polling Place	Polling station	Changes considered	Notes
GA	None	1,567	Sheffield Archives, 52 Shoreham Street, Sheffield, S1 4SP	Single	None	
GB	None	1,439	Platinum Suite, Sheffield United Football Club, Bramall Lane, Sheffield, S2 4SU	Single	Realignment of boundary with GD	
GC	None	1,598	Town Hall Room G46, Pinstone Street, S1 2HH	Single	None	
GD	None	1,657	Duchess Road Community Centre, Shoreham Street, S1 4ST	Single	Realignment of boundary with GB	
GE	None	2,375	City Life Church, South Parade, S3 8SS	Single	None	
GF	None	1,731	The Circle, 33 Rockingham Lane, Sheffield, S1 4FW	Single	None	
GG	None	1,791	Christ Church Central, Egerton Hall, Fitzwilliam Street, Sheffield, S1 4JR	Single	None	

Proposals or Comments

There are no proposed changes to the GA, GC, GE, GF or GG polling districts in this ward.

GB Polling District

At the local and Combined Authority Mayoral elections on 5 May 2022, feedback was received from voters on Margaret Street that their new polling station at Bramall Lane was less convenient than their old one at Duchess Road Community Centre. Following this, Electoral Services have reviewed the polling arrangements of electors on Margaret Street and determined that they and electors on Midland Street should return to voting at Duchess Road, within the GD polling district.

Table 1 – Properties to be transferred from GB to GD (Map bookmark 1)

Roads	No of properties	No of electors excluding postal voters (approximately)	No of electors
Margaret Street	20	41	46
Midland Street	24	54	54
Total	44	95	100

An error on the register was found at the local and Combined Authority Mayoral elections held on 5 May 2022, in that electors at St Mary's House, 11 London Road remained allocated to vote in the GD polling district. This error will be corrected at the conclusion of the interim polling review as follows:

Table 2 – Properties to be transferred from GD to GB (Map bookmark 1)

Roads	No of properties	No of electors excluding postal voters (approximately)	No of electors
St Mary's House, 11 London Road	12	70	74
Total	12	70	74

The above amendments would result in a reduction of electors in GB polling district to 1414 in person voters and a slight increase in the GD polling district to 1682 in person voters. Both of these electors are within the Electoral Commission's recommended maximums.

2 – Ecclesall Ward (Sheffield Central Constituency)

Polling District	Parish	Electorate (excluding postal voters)	Polling Place	Polling station	Changes considered	Notes
LD	None	1,932	The School of Philosophy, 78 Carterknowle Road, Sheffield, S7 2DX	Single	None	

2 – Ecclesall Ward (Sheffield Hallam Constituency)

Polling District	Parish	Electorate (excluding postal voters)	Polling Place	Polling station	Changes considered	Notes
LA	None	1,594	Ecclesall Parish Halls, Ringinglow Road, S11 7PP	Single	Boundary amendment with LG	
LB	None	1,173	Banner Cross Methodist Church, 12 Ecclesall Road South, Sheffield, S11 9PE	Single	None	
LC	None	1,259	Bents Green Methodist Church, Ringinglow Road, Sheffield, S11 7PU	Single	None	
LE	None	2,338	St Gabriel's Church Hall, Dobbin Hill, S11 7JB	Single	Proposed to split into two separate polling districts	
LF	None	1,840	Millhouses Methodist Church, Whirlowdale Road, S7 2HA	Single	None	
LG	None	1,638	Ecclesall Library Community Room, 120 Ecclesall Road South, Sheffield, S11 9PL	Single	Boundary amendment with LA	

Proposals or Comments

There are no proposed changes to the polling arrangements for the LB, LC, LD, LF or polling districts.

LA Polling District

It is proposed that all properties listed in the table below move from LA into the LG polling district. Ecclesall Library is the polling place for the LG polling district, and currently is not within that polling district. This boundary move will place it into the LG polling district and allow electors in the nearby roads to vote at a station that is more convenient.

Table 3 – Properties to be transferred from LA to LG (Map bookmark 2)

Roads	No of properties	No of electors excluding postal voters (approximately)	No of electors
Ecclesall Road South	39	24	54
Knowle Croft	8	14	17
Knowle Lane	56	54	97
Weetwood Gardens (20 Knowle Lane)	48	25	56
Ryefield Gardens	27	10	31
Weetwood Drive	11	8	18
Total	189	135	273

LA polling district would reduce to 1,459 polling station voters and LG polling district would increase to 1,773 polling station voters.

LE Polling District

As part of the polling district review of 2021, feedback was received asking for a review of the LE polling district. Unfortunately, time did not allow for this to be carried out as part of that review. Electoral Services have now reviewed the polling district and propose to split the district using Hallamshire Tennis, Squash and Racketball Club as the polling place. The following streets/properties will move into the new LH polling district:

Table 4 – Properties to be transferred from LE to LH (Map bookmark 3)

Roads	No of properties	No of electors excluding postal voters (approximately)	No of electors
Carrington Road	30	37	48
Ecclesall Road	133	206	223
Onslow Road	100	176	191
Peveril Road (Nos. 1 – 53 and 2 – 50)	46	65	79
Ranby Road (Nos. 1 – 53b and 2 – 48)	45	68	81
Rustlings Road	101	165	217
Stainton Road	51	78	98
Total	506	795	937

The above proposal would see the new LH polling district take 795 polling station voters from the current LE polling district, which reduces to 1,543 polling station voters

3 – Gleadless Valley Ward (Sheffield Heeley Constituency)

During the elections held on 5 May, the Returning Officer was asked to review the polling place for the OE polling district, to consider an alternative polling venue to the Bagshawe Arms. The previous polling station was at Orpen House, but this was no longer available. Electoral Services have reviewed the arrangements in the polling district, but there is limited scope for amending the polling boundaries in this area.

An alternative polling place has been identified at St Anthony's Church Hall, Sandy Lane, which has previously been used as a polling station. We would welcome comments on this proposed change.

There are no other proposed changes within the Gleadless Valley ward.

4 – Manor Castle Ward (Sheffield Central Constituency)

Polling District	Parish	Electorate (excluding postal voters)	Polling Place	Polling station	Changes considered	Notes
RA	None	2,314	St Swithun's Church Centre, Cary Road, S2 1JP	Single	Boundary alignment with eastern portion of RB	
RB	None	1,561	Manor Neighbourhood Centre, 157 Castlebeck Avenue, Sheffield, S2 1ds	Single	Split and merge west of Prince of Wales Road with RC	
RC	None	1,444	Temple Park Centre, 197 Harborough Avenue, S2 1QT	Single	Expand to take in the western portion of RB	
RD	None	1,986	Bard Street Community Rooms, 2 Blackwell Close, S2 5PY	Single	None	
RE	None	1,334	Skye Edge Community Centre, 7 Skye Edge Avenue, S2 5FX	Single	Boundary realignment with RF and RG	
RF	None	1,880	Sheffield Wildlife Trust HQ, Stafford Road, S2 2SF	Single	Boundary realignment with RE	
RG	None	1,634	St Oswald RC Church, 126 Southend Road, Sheffield, S2 5FT	Single	Boundary realignment with RE	

Proposals or Comments

There are no proposed changes to the polling arrangements for the RD polling district. Amendments to the other polling districts in Manor Castle ward are as follows:

RB Polling District

As part of the polling district review of 2021, feedback was received asking for a review of the RB polling district. Unfortunately, time did not allow for this to be carried out as part of that review as any amendment could affect neighbouring polling district polling and places. Electoral Services have now reviewed the polling district and propose to split it along the line of Prince of Wales Road, to remove the need of voters to cross this busy road in order to vote. It is proposed that the streets to the west of Prince of Wales Road merge into the RC polling district and voting would move to the Temple Park Centre on Harborough Avenue.

Table 5 – Properties to be transferred from RB to RC (Map bookmark 5)

Roads	No of properties	No of electors excluding postal voters (approximately)	No of electors
Beaumont Avenue	42	55	67
Beaumont Close	13	17	19
Beaumont Crescent	77	84	99
Beaumont Mews	8	14	14
Beaumont Road North	75	96	119
Beaumont Way	4	5	5
Circle Close	16	18	24
Dawlands Close	43	46	63
Dawlands Drive	9	9	13
Fallow Grove	0	0	0
Fretson Road	12	11	11
Harborough Avenue	9	4	6
Harborough Way	26	37	46
Jan Wilson Way	1	0	0
Motehall Place	14	13	21
Motehall Road	56	63	74
Motehall Walk	3	3	3
Noehill Place	16	14	20
Noehill Road	27	27	30
Prince of Wales Road (Odds)	40	41	58
Ravencarr Road	7	10	10
Stonecliffe Road	6	3	5

Roads	No of properties	No of electors excluding postal voters (approximately)	No of electors
Stonecliffe Walk	12	13	14
Stonehirst Close	1	0	0
The Circle	0	0	0
The Crossways	18	28	28
Total	495	570	691

The above amendments would increase RC to 1,444 in person electors.

As part of this review, Electoral Services propose to move properties on Fairfax Road and Prince of Wales Road that fall into the RA polling district into the remaining part of RB. Electors in these properties currently have to cross Prince of Wales Road in order to vote at St Swithun's Church on Cary Road. It is proposed that these electors move to vote at the Manor Neighbourhood Centre on Castlebeck Avenue.

Table 6 – Properties to be transferred from RA to RB (Map bookmark 4)

Roads	No of properties	No of electors excluding postal voters (approximately)	No of electors
Prince of Wales Road (Nos. 212 - 226)	8	9	12
Fairfax Road	5	2	8
Total	13	11	20

These amendments would result in the RB polling district containing 961 in-person voters. The RA polling district would reduce to 2,314 in-person voters.

RE Polling District

The polling place for the RG polling, St Oswald RC Church, is currently located within the RE polling district. Electors in properties close to this polling place cannot currently use it and must travel to Skye Edge Community Centre. It is proposed that the following streets/properties move from the RE polling district and into RG:

Table 7 – Properties to be transferred from RE to RG (Map bookmark 6)

Roads	No of properties	No of electors excluding postal voters (approximately)	No of electors
Manor Oaks Road	42	45	60
Southend Place	60	65	83
Southend Road (Nos 79 - 149 and 126 - 176)	61	57	72
Total	163	167	215

The above amendment would reduce the RE polling district to 1,421 in-person voters and increase the RG polling district to 2,267 voters.