

Acting Returning Officer's representation: Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places 2023 / 2024

The electoral arrangements at the 4 May 2023 elections worked well and very little adjustment to the schedule of polling districts and polling places is proposed in this review.

Reason for the review

Local authorities are required to review their polling districts and polling places for UK parliamentary constituencies at least once every five years. The next compulsory review must be completed by 31 January 2025.

Background to the review

- Two polling district and polling place reviews have been conducted in the district since the last compulsory review was completed in 2019:
 - 2021/2022: Following the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) review and subsequent changes to district ward and parish boundaries.
 - 2022/2023: Following the Council's Community Governance Review and subsequent changes to parish / parish ward boundaries.
- The Council has submitted a request to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) to alter the district ward boundary between Marshalswick West district ward and Marshalswick East & Jersey Farm district ward so that the district boundary aligns with the current Sandridge Parish Council boundary.
- The Boundary Commission for England (BCE) has recently concluded a review of UK Parliamentary constituency boundaries and submitted final recommendations to Parliament on 27 June 2023. Pending Parliamentary approval, the constituency boundary changes following the BCE review must be reflected in the district's scheme of polling districts and polling places.

Proposed changes

St Peters district ward, polling districts SPC / SPD:

- The polling place for electors in the current polling district SPD will be changed from St Alban and St Stephen Infant School in Vanda Crescent to St Alban and St Stephen Catholic Church in Beaconsfield Road.

- The current polling place (St Stephen Infant School in Vanda Crescent) is located on the edge of polling district SPD. The proposed polling place (St Alban and St Stephen Catholic Church) is located in polling district SPC of the St Peters ward but is a short distance from the SPD polling district boundary (100m approx.).
- St Alban and St Stephen Catholic Church was used as the polling place for polling district SPD at the recent 13 June 2023 St Peters ward by-election because St Stephen Infant School was unavailable. The venue proved to be a suitable size to accommodate electors from two polling districts and is conveniently located for electors.
- Following the change of polling place, polling district SPD will no longer be required and will therefore be removed. The boundaries of polling district SPC will be extended to incorporate electors currently in polling district SPD.

Marshalswick West / Marshalswick East & Jersey Farm district ward, polling districts MWE / MEB:

- Electors in the current polling district MWE (1-3 Rose Walk) will be transferred to polling district MEB, and their polling place will be changed from St Mary's Church in Sherwood Avenue to Marshalswick Community Centre in The Ridgeway. Polling district MWE will no longer be required and will therefore be removed.
 - The Council has submitted a request to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) to alter the district ward boundary between Marshalswick West district ward and Marshalswick East & Jersey Farm district ward so that the district boundary aligns with the new outer Sandridge Parish Council boundary. This request arises from a parish boundary change following the conclusion of the Council's recent Community Governance Review. If LGBCE consent is granted, this amendment will result in 1-3 Rose Walk moving from Marshalswick West district ward to Marshalswick East & Jersey Farm district ward, therefore removing the need for the current MWE polling district.
 - The proposed polling place (Marshalswick Community Centre) and the current polling place (St Mary's Church) are both approximately a 600m journey from 1-3 Rose Walk.

Amanda Foley, Acting Returning Officer

September 2023