

REPORT TO COUNCIL

REPORT OF: Returning Officer

REPORT NO: LDS137

DATE: 6 November 2014

TITLE:	Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places	
KEY DECISION OR POLICY FRAMEWORK PROPOSAL:	Statutory requirement	
PORTFOLIO HOLDER: NAME AND DESIGNATION:	Councillor Paul Carpenter – Portfolio Holder for Governance and Communication	
CONTACT OFFICER:	Julie Edwards, Elections and Democratic Services Team Leader j.edwards@southkesteven.gov.uk; Tel : 01476 406080 ext 6078	
INITIAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT: Equality and Diversity	Carried out and referred to in paragraph (7) below.	Full impact assessment Required: N/A
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT:	This report is publicly available via the Your Council and Democracy link on the Council's website: www.southkesteven.gov.uk	
BACKGROUND PAPERS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notice of Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places http://www.southkesteven.gov.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=12174&p=0 • Electoral Commission Guidance on the Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a/electoral-administrator/polling-place-reviews • Acting Returning Officer's draft proposals http://www.southkesteven.gov.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=12322&p=0 • Engagement Policy Development Group Report LDS133 • Electoral Review of South Kesteven Final Recommendations 	

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

1.1 It is recommended that:

- i. Council approves the proposals setting out changes to polling districts, polling places and polling stations as detailed at Appendix 1 of report LDS137.
- ii. These revised polling districts and polling places take effect from 2 January 2015.

2. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

2.1 Under the Representation of the People Act 1983, the Council has a duty to divide the District into polling districts and to designate a polling place for each of these districts. The Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013 introduced a change to the timing of compulsory reviews of UK Parliamentary polling districts and polling places and the Council must complete a review of these polling districts and polling places by 31 January 2015. Subsequent compulsory reviews must then be held once every five years.

2.2 The Local Government Boundary Commission for England conducted an electoral review of South Kesteven and published final recommendations in March 2014. The outcome of the electoral review will reduce the number of district wards within South Kesteven from 34 to 30 with effect from the next District Council elections in May 2015. This review of polling districts and polling places will incorporate the revised warding arrangements.

2.3 The electoral register is due for publication by no later than 1 December 2014 and it may be necessary for the register to be published in advance of this date to allow for the County Council by-election in the Stamford North electoral division to take place. As a result, the electoral register, incorporating the new wards and polling districts, will be republished by 2 January 2015. The revised polling districts and polling places will therefore take effect from 2 January 2015.

3. DETAILS OF REPORT

Background

3.1 Polling Districts are, in effect, sub divisions of electoral wards. Each parish or parish ward is automatically a polling district in its own right but then that area can be broken down into further polling districts dependent on the size of the parish and the number and location of the electors. Responsibility for determining polling district boundaries lies with the Council itself.

- 3.2 The Council must designate a polling place for every polling district. In determining where polling places should be located the Council must seek to ensure that all the electors have such reasonable facilities for voting as are practical in the circumstances and that, so far as is reasonable and practical, polling places are accessible to all electors, including those who are disabled.
- 3.3 Public notice of the start of the review was given on 28 July 2014. The closing date for the submission of comments was 12 September 2014.
- 3.4 As a result of the ward boundary changes it has been necessary for a number of changes to be made to the polling district boundaries and polling places for some voters. The proposals for the rural areas of the district involve very little change to the current polling arrangements – the polling districts are made up of individual parishes and it is proposed that very little change be made. Due to the significant revision of the ward boundaries in the Grantham, Bourne and Stamford town areas there is a need for a number of changes to be made. Wherever possible, the proposals aim to keep changes to a minimum. In addition, minor modifications are proposed to the polling districts within Market Deeping to provide a greater balance of electors voting between the two polling stations.
- 3.5 A schedule of the proposals outlined in this report together with the polling arrangements for all polling districts within the district are detailed on the Schedule of Polling Places attached at **Appendix 1**. Any changes to the current polling place arrangements are identified in the comments column of the schedule.
- 3.6 New polling district codes have been allocated to each area as a result of the boundary review, these are listed in alphabetical order of the new ward names. South Kesteven District Council falls within three Parliamentary constituencies and these constituency areas can be identified by the allocated polling district code as follows:
- Grantham and Stamford Constituency – codes ending in 1
 - Sleaford and North Hykeham Constituency – codes ending in 2
 - South Holland and the Deepings Constituency – codes ending in 3.
- 3.7 Maps showing the revised polling district boundaries for each of the wards within Bourne, Grantham, Market Deeping and Stamford are attached at **Appendix 3**.

Consultation Process

- 3.8 Public notice of the review was given on 28 July 2014 and full details of the review were placed on the Council's website. The period for representations to be made on the existing and draft proposals was from 28 July until 12 September 2014.

- 3.9 As part of the review, initial consultation was undertaken about the existing polling districts and polling places with District Councillors and Parish Councils. Draft proposals were then prepared and further consultation of these draft proposals was undertaken. The consultation invited comments from all District and County Councillors, all Parish/Town councils, local political parties and the Acting Returning Officer for the constituencies partly within the South Kesteven area. In addition, representations have been invited from people or organisations who had particular expertise in relation to access to premises or facilities for persons who have different forms of disability.

Consultation Responses

- 3.10 A number of responses to the consultation have been received and a summary of the consultation responses is attached at **Appendix 2**. Each of the responses has been evaluated to determine if changes are necessary as part of the review process.
- 3.11 The draft proposals for polling districts and polling places were considered by the Engagement Policy Development Group on 18 September 2014 and were recommended to Council for approval.

4. OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 4.1 Where comments have been received as part of consultation process, various options have been considered in each case. These are detailed below:

4.2 Bourne East Ward

Twenty BNM1 – During the consultation, we have been alerted to the current polling station premises located at the Twenty Acre Spa being for sale. Previously the polling station for this area was located at the Twenty Village Hall and was moved to the Spa when the Village Hall became unavailable. Whilst the Village Hall is generally closed for lettings, officers have had discussions with a representative who has confirmed that the hall can be made available for polling day if needed as the premises continues to be connected to services and have relevant public liability insurance in place. Given the uncertainty of the availability of the current polling station venue, it is proposed that the polling station be re-designated to the Twenty Village Hall for future elections with this situation being reviewed on an annual basis.

4.3 Grantham Earlesfield Ward

Polling district GEC1 – Representations have been received from the Grantham Branch Labour Group and the Grantham and Stamford Constituency Labour Party requesting that this area either retain the current polling station arrangements at the Huntingtower Primary Academy and Walton Girls High School or an alternative be provided east of the Canal. In view of these

comments, consideration has been given to alternative options – these are identified below:

Option 1 – Retain the current polling station arrangements at Huntingtower Primary Academy and Walton Girls High School.

- This option would involve two separate polling stations for a total of 400 electors.
- Two polling stations will already be situated at the Huntingtower Primary Academy at the 2015 elections for the new Grantham Springfield Ward due to elector numbers. Insufficient space is available in the room used at the academy to accommodate a third polling station for a separate ward.

Option 2 – Relocate the polling place to the Scout Hall, Earlesfield Lane

- The Scout Hall is conveniently located within the polling district
- The hall has a step at the entrance which can be ramped
- Car parking facilities are available at the hall

Recommendation – Option 2 – Relocate to Scout Hall, Earlesfield Lane

4.4 **Loveden Heath Ward**

Polling District LVA2 (Caythorpe) – Currently the polling station is situated at the Caythorpe Children’s Centre however a request has been received from the Children’s Centre for the polling station to be relocated to the Caythorpe Village Hall due to operational difficulties they have encountered when the premises is used as a polling station. In view of these comments, an officer has visited the Village Hall and determined that the hall is suitable for use as a polling station, is centrally located and has good facilities and access. Neither venue offers off-road parking however adequate on-street parking is available on High Street.

Recommendation – Relocate polling place to Caythorpe Village Hall.

4.5 **Market Deeping Ward**

Polling Districts MDA3 and MDB3 (Market Deeping) – Currently the polling station for polling district MDB3 is situated at the Deepings Community Centre. This polling district has now reached the maximum number of electors allowed for a polling station at just over 2500 electors, excluding postal voters. As a result there is a need to revise the polling arrangements for the Market Deeping area and it is proposed that the polling district boundary be revised as shown on the attached plan at Appendix 3. This proposal transfers 541 electors from the Deeping Community Centre to the Green School.

4.6 **Stamford All Saints Ward**

Polling District SAB1 – Comments have been received requesting that the polling place for this area be relocated to a more convenient place for voters

within this polling district. The current polling station is the Children's Centre at the Bluecoat Primary School which is located at the far eastern edge of the ward and is not convenient to voters in this area. Consideration has been given to several options including:

- Providing a temporary polling station;
- Relocating to the Malcolm Sargent Primary School (which is situated in the Stamford St John's Ward);
- Relocating to the Scout premises in Empingham Road; or
- Retaining the current polling station location at the Children's Centre at the Bluecoat Primary School.

The above options have been considered and it is recommended that the polling place for this polling district be relocated to the Malcolm Sargent Primary School. Although the school is situated outside of the ward it is felt to be a more convenient location for the residents of this area.

Recommendation: Relocate polling place for SAB1 to the Malcolm Sargent Primary School.

5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

5.1 None arising from this report.

6. RISK AND MITIGATION

6.1 None arising from this report.

7. ISSUES ARISING FROM EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

7.1 A stage one equality analysis has been completed which has not identified any potential for discrimination or for negative impact and all opportunities to promote equality have been taken. Accessibility of polling stations is a key requirement of the review and the allocation of polling places.

8. CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

8.1 None arising from this report.

9. COMMENTS OF FINANCIAL SERVICES

9.1 The proposals, if implemented, will result in financial implications in relation to additional hire and staffing costs on election day. Any additional costs would only fall to the District council at the time of any District Council election or by-election. The proposals identify two additional polling station venues and at the elections in 2015 these additional costs will be shared equally with the Parliamentary election and it is anticipated that these costs would be met from existing budgets.

10. COMMENTS OF LEGAL AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

- 10.1 The Council has a legal duty under section 17 of the Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013 to complete a review of polling districts and polling places by 31 January 2015. Subsequent compulsory reviews must then be held every five years.

11. COMMENTS OF OTHER RELEVANT SERVICES

None

12. APPENDICES:

- **Appendix 1 – Schedule of revised proposed Polling Districts and Polling Places**
- **Appendix 2 –Summary of representations received during the consultation**
- **Appendix 3 – maps showing polling districts for Belmont and Market & West Deeping wards and all wards in Bourne, Grantham and Stamford.**

South Kesteven District Council
Proposed Revised Schedule of Polling Districts and Polling Places 2014

AVELAND WARD

Polling district	Parish (where applicable)	Polling Place	Electorate	Postal Voters	Comments
AVA1 – Aslackby	Aslackby & Laughton Parish	The Church of St James the Great, Aveland Way, Aslackby, NG34 0HJ	217	(31)	No change
AVB1 – Dowsby	Dowsby Parish	Dowsby Village Hall, Main Road, Dowsby, PE10 0TL	165	(30)	No change
AVC1 – Dunsby	Dunsby Parish	Dunsby Village Hall, The Cross, Dunsby, PE10 0UB	104	(12)	No change
AVD1 – Haconby	Haconby Parish	The Hare and Hounds Public House, 2 West Road, Haconby, PE10 0UZ	408	(56)	No change
AVE1 – Pointon	Pointon & Sempringham Parish	Pointon Village Hall, High Street, Pointon, NG34 0LX	438	(94)	No change
AVF1 – Rippingale	Rippingale Parish	Rippingale Village Hall, Station Street, Rippingale, PE10 0TA	737	(111)	No change

BELMONT WARD

Polling district	Parish (where applicable)	Polling Place	Electorate	Postal Voters	Comments
BEA1 – Loundthorpe	Loundthorpe & Harrowby Without Parish – part of new Harrowby & Spitalgate parish ward	Belmont Community Primary School, Harrowby Lane, Grantham, NG31 9LR	994	(168)	Change of polling place for 77 electors (previously voted at Witham Place Communal Room)
BEB1 – Loundthorpe	Loundthorpe & Harrowby Without Parish – part of new Harrowby & Spitalgate parish ward	Belmont Community Primary School, Harrowby Lane, Grantham, NG31 9LR	1308	(192)	No change
BEC1 – Loundthorpe	Loundthorpe & Harrowby Without Parish – part of new Harrowby & Spitalgate parish ward	Belton Lane Community School, Queensway, Grantham, NG31 9PP <i>A separate polling station is also located in this building for the Grantham Harrowby Ward.</i>	1272	(269)	No change

BELVOIR WARD

Polling district	Parish (where applicable)	Polling Place	Electorate	Postal Voters	Comments
BLA1 – Denton BLD1 – Wyville/Hungerton	Denton Parish Wyville-Cum-Hungerton Parish	Denton C E School, Church Street, Denton, NG32 1LG	250 <u>37</u> 287	(40) (3) (43)	No change
BLB1 – Harlaxton	Harlaxton Parish	Harlaxton Village Hall, 3 Church Street, Harlaxton, NG32 1HB	660	(129)	No change
BLC1 – Woolsthorpe	Woolsthorpe-by-Belvoir Parish	Woolsthorpe Village Hall, Main Street, Woolsthorpe by Belvoir, NG32 1LX	309	(29)	No change
BLE2 – Allington	Allington Parish	Allington Village Hall, Side Street, Allington, NG32 2DZ	788	(188)	No change
BLF2 – Barrowby	Barrowby Parish	The Reading Room, Church Street, Barrowby, NG32 1BX	1625	(347)	No change
BLG2 – Sedgebrook	Sedgebrook Parish	Sedgebrook Social Club, Abbey Lane, Sedgebrook, NG32 2EY	291	(51)	No change

BOURNE AUSTERBY WARD

Polling district	Parish (where applicable)	Polling Place	Electorate	Postal Voters	Comments
BNA1 – Bourne Austerby	Bourne Parish – part of Austerby ward	Darby & Joan Hall, South Road, Bourne, PE10 9LY <i>Two polling stations required at County Council elections to accommodate separate county electoral divisions.</i>	1533	(250)	Change of polling place due to ward changes for approximately 302 electors, from the Meadow Close Communal Room to Darby & Joan Hall. No change for 1223 electors.
BNB1 – Bourne Austerby	Bourne Parish – part of Austerby ward	The Centre at Elsea Park, 1 Sandown Way, Bourne, PE10 0US	2001	(355)	No change
BNC1 – Bourne Austerby	Bourne Parish – part of Austerby ward	Darby & Joan Hall, South Road, Bourne, PE10 9LY <i>Two polling stations required at County Council elections to accommodate separate county electoral divisions.</i>	676	(120)	Change of polling place due to ward changes, from Manor Court Communal Room to Darby & Joan Hall.
BND1 – Bourne Austerby	Bourne Parish – part of Austerby ward	The Centre at Elsea Park, 1 Sandown Way, Bourne, PE10 0US	302	(54)	No change

BOURNE EAST WARD

Polling district	Parish (where applicable)	Polling Place	Electorate	Postal Voters	Comments / Proposal
BNJ1 – Bourne East	Bourne Parish – part of East ward	Bourne Youth Centre, Queen’s Road, Bourne, PE10 9DX	1846	3(318)	No change
BJK1 – Bourne East	Bourne Parish – part of East ward	Meadow Close Communal Room, Meadow Close, Bourne, PE10 9EL	1266	(203)	No change
BNL1 – Bourne East (Dyke)	Bourne Parish – part of East Ward	Dyke Village Hall, Main Road, Dyke, Bourne, PE10 0AF	249	(42)	No change
BNM1 – Bourne East (Twenty)	Bourne Parish – part of East Ward	Twenty Village Hall, Station Road, Twenty, Bourne, PE10 0AZ	142	(16)	Relocate polling place from Twenty Acre Spa to Twenty Village Hall.

BOURNE WEST WARD

Polling district	Parish (where applicable)	Polling Place	Electorate	Postal Voters	Comments / Proposal
BNR1 – Bourne West	Bourne Parish – part of West ward	Wake House Community Centre, 41 North Street, Bourne, PE10 9AE	1620	(291)	Minor revision of polling district boundaries between the three polling districts. Change of polling place for approximately 300 voters.
BNS1 – Bourne West	Bourne Parish – part of West ward	Bourne Westfield Primary Academy, Westbourne park, Bourne, PE10 9QS	1937	(343)	
BNT1 – Bourne West	Bourne Parish – part of West ward	Communal Room, Manor Court, Bourne, PE10 9PP	612	(102)	

CASEWICK WARD

Polling district	Parish (where applicable)	Polling Place	Electorate	Postal Voters	Comments / Proposal
CSA1 – Barholm and Stowe CSC1 – Greatford	Barholm and Stowe Parish Greatford Parish	Greatford Village Hall, Carlby Road, Greatford, PE9 4PR	77 <u>206</u> 283	(14) (30) (44)	No change
CSB1 – Baston	Baston Parish	Baston C of E School, 103a Main Street, Baston, PE6 9PB	1195	(181)	No change
CSD1 – Langtoft	Langtoft Parish	Langtoft Village Hall, 26 West End, Langtoft, PE6 9LS	1625	(317)	No change
CSE1 – Tallington	Tallington Parish	Tallington Village Hall, Main Road, Tallington, PE9 4RP	444	(67)	No change
CSF1 – Uffington	Uffington Parish	Uffington Village Hall, Main Road, Uffington, PE9 4SN	553	(96)	No change

CASTLE WARD

Polling district	Parish (where applicable)	Polling Place	Electorate	Postal Voters	Comments
CTA1 – Burton Coggles	Burton Coggles Parish	Burton Coggles Village Hall, Post Office Lane, Burton-le-Coggles, NG33 4JW	94	(7)	No change
CTB1 – Corby Glen	Corby Glen Parish	Methodist Chapel, Station Road, Corby Glen, NG33 4NW	848	(156)	No change
CTC1 – Edenham	Edenham Parish	Edenham Village Hall, 44 Church Lane, Edenham, PE10 0LS	234	(28)	No change
CTD1 – Irnham	Irnham Parish	The Griffin Inn, 15 Bulby Road, Irnham, NG33 4JG	167	(33)	No change
CTE1 – Kirkby Underwood	Kirkby Underwood Parish	Kirkby Underwood Village Hall, The Green, Kirkby Underwood PE10 0SE	178	(17)	No change
CTF1 – Swayfield	Swayfield Parish	Swayfield Village Hall, 33 Corby Road, Swayfield, NG33 4LQ	280	(36)	No change
CTG1 – Swinstead	Swinstead Parish	Swinstead Village Hall, Bourne Road, Swinstead, NG33 4PQ	201	(25)	No change

DEEPING ST JAMES WARD

Polling district	Parish (where applicable)	Polling Place	Electorate	Postal Voters	Comments
DJA3 – Deeping St James	Deeping St James Parish	Deeping Community Centre, 2 Douglas Road, Market Deeping, PE6 8SX <i>This venue accommodates two polling stations – one for the Deeping St James ward and one for the Market Deeping ward.</i>	2757	(431)	No change
DJB3 – Deeping St James	Deeping St James Parish	Deeping St James CP School, Hereward Way, Deeping St James, PE6 8PZ <i>Two polling stations located at this venue to accommodate the large number of electors.</i>	3043	(467)	No change

DOLE WOOD WARD

Polling district	Parish (where applicable)	Polling Place	Electorate	Postal Voters	Comments
DWA1 – Braceborough	Braceborough and Wilsthorpe Parish	Braceborough & Wilsthorpe Village Hall, Braceborough PE9 4NT	254	(34)	No change
DWB1 – Thurlby	Thurlby Parish	Methodist School Room, High Street, Thurlby, PE10 0ED	1778	(280)	No change

GLEN WARD

Polling district	Parish (where applicable)	Polling Place	Electorate	Postal Voters	Comments
GLA1 – Careby	Careby, Aunby & Holywell Parish	Little Bytham Village Hall, Little Bytham, NG33 4QJ	125	(37)	No change
GLD1 – Counthorpe	Counthorpe & Creeton Parish		73	(11)	
GLE1 – Little Bytham	Little Bytham Parish		<u>237</u> 436	(31) (79)	
GLB1 – Carlby	Carlby Parish	Carlby Village Hall, High Street, Carlby, PE9 4LX	437	(78)	No change
GLC1 – Castle Bytham	Castle Bytham Parish	Castle Bytham Village Hall, Pinfold Road, Castle Bytham NG33 4RG	625	(84)	No change
GLF1 – Toft	Toft & Lound with Manthorpe Parish	Witham-on-the-Hill Parish Hall, Main Street, Witham-on-the-Hill, PE10 0JH	253	(52)	No change
GLG1 – Witham-on-the-Hill	Witham-on-the-Hill Parish		<u>189</u> 442	(37) (89)	

GRANTHAM ARNOLDFIELD WARD

Polling district	Parish (where applicable)	Polling Place	Electorate	Postal Voters	Comments
GAA1 – Grantham Arnoldfield	-	Newton House Care Home, 148 Barrowby Road, Grantham, NG31 8AF <i>Two polling stations at this polling place – one for Grantham Arnoldfield ward and one for Grantham Barrowby Gate ward</i>	841	(193)	No change
GAB1 – Grantham Arnoldfield	-	Gonerby Hill Foot School, Gonerby Hill Foot, Grantham, NG31 8HQ	2297	(434)	No change
GAC2 – Great Gonerby – Gonerby Hill	Great Gonerby Parish – Gonerby Hill parish ward	Gonerby Hill Foot School, Gonerby Hill Foot, Grantham, NG31 8HQ <i>Two separate polling stations will need to be located at this venue at County Council and Parliamentary elections to accommodate the separate divisions/constituencies.</i>	180	(23)	Change of polling place from St Sebastian’s Primary School, Great Gonerby to Gonerby Hill Foot School as a result of the ward boundary changes. This location will be more convenient for electors in this area.

GRANTHAM BARROWBY GATE WARD

Polling district	Parish (where applicable)	Polling Place	Electorate	Postal Voters	Comments
GBA1 – Grantham Barrowby Gate	-	Newton House Care Home, 148 Barrowby Road, Grantham, NG31 8AF <i>Two polling stations at this polling place – one for Grantham Arnoldfield ward and one for Grantham Barrowby Gate ward</i>	2704	(573)	No change
GBB1 – Grantham Barrowby Gate	-	South Kesteven Table Tennis Centre, The Meres Leisure Centre, Trent Road, NG31 7XQ <i>Two polling stations at this polling place – one for Grantham Barrowby Gate ward and one for Grantham Earlesfield ward</i>	1341	(250)	No change

GRANTHAM EARLESFIELD WARD

Polling district	Parish (where applicable)	Polling Place	Electorate	Postal Voters	Comments
GEA1 – Grantham Earlesfield	-	South Kesteven Table Tennis Centre, The Meres Leisure Centre, Trent Road, NG31 7XQ <i>Two polling stations at this polling place – one for Grantham Barrowby Gate ward and one for Grantham Earlesfield ward</i>	1928	(287)	No change.
GEB1 – Grantham Earlesfield	-	Grantham West Community Centre, Trent Road, Grantham, NG31 7XQ	1781	(159)	No change
GEC1 – Grantham Earlesfield	-	Scout Hall, Earlesfield Lane, Grantham, NG31 7NT	399	(63)	Change in polling place due to ward changes from Huntingtower Primary Academy and Walton Girls High School to the Scout Hall.

GRANTHAM HARROWBY WARD

Polling district	Parish (where applicable)	Polling Place	Electorate	Postal Voters	Comments
GHA1 – Grantham Harrowby	-	Communal Room, Canterbury Close, Grantham, NG31 9RE	1100	(155)	No change
GHB1 – Grantham Harrowby	-	Belton Lane Community School, Queensway, Grantham, NG31 9PP <i>A separate polling station is also located in this building for the Belmont Ward.</i>	759	(121)	No change.
GHC1 – Grantham Harrowby	-	Communal Room, Central Place, Grantham, NG31 9NX	979	(191)	Proposed revision of eastern polling district boundary to follow Harrowby Lane. Change of polling place for approx 356 electors, from Canterbury Close Communal Room to Central Place. No change for 623 electors.
GHD1 – Grantham Harrowby	--	Communal Room, Belton Avenue, Grantham, NG31 9QR	950	(340)	Proposed revision of polling district boundary to include properties on both sides of Harrowby Lane. Change of polling place for 95 electors from Central Place to Belton Avenue. No change for 855 electors.

GRANTHAM SPRINGFIELD WARD

Polling district	Parish (where applicable)	Polling Place	Electorate	Postal Voters	Comments
GSA1 – Grantham Springfield	-	Huntingtower Primary Academy, Huntingtower Road, Grantham,NG31 7AU	2886	(386)	No change (two polling stations).
GSB1 – Grantham Springfield	-	Walton Girls' High School, Kitty Briggs Lane, Off Harlaxton Road, Grantham, NG31 7JR	968	(235)	No change

GRANTHAM ST VINCENT'S WARD

Polling district	Parish (where applicable)	Polling Place	Electorate	Postal Voters	Comments
GVA1 – Grantham St Vincent's	-	Communal Room, Sandon Close, Grantham, NG31 9AX <i>Two polling stations required at County Council elections to accommodate separate county electoral divisions.</i>	681	(101)	Change of polling place due to ward changes, from Central Place Communal Room to Sandon Close.
GVB1 – Grantham St Vincent's	-	Communal Room, Sandon Close, Grantham, NG31 9AX	979	(186)	No change
GVC1 – Grantham St Vincent's	-	Witham Room, Civic Entrance, Council Offices, St Peter's Hill, Grantham,NG31 6PZ	69	(10)	No change – this polling district comprises only 69 electors but cannot be joined to any other polling district in this ward due to currently being within a different county council electoral division.
GVD1 – Grantham St Vincent's	-	St Anne's CE Primary School, Harrowby Road, Grantham, NG31 9ED	1218	(154)	No change
GVE1 – Grantham St Vincent's	-	Witham Room, Civic Entrance, Council Offices, St Peter's Hill, Grantham, NG31 6PZ <i>Two polling stations at this venue, for Grantham St Wulfram's and Grantham St Vincent's wards</i>	1101	(81)	No change
GVF1 – Grantham St Vincent's	-	Communal Room, Witham Place, Bridge End Road, Grantham, NG31 6JX	1097	(179)	No change
GVG1 – Londonthorpe – Bridge End	Londonthorpe & Harrowby Without Parish – Bridge End parish ward	Communal Room, Witham Place, Bridge End Road, Grantham, NG31 6JX <i>Two polling stations required at this venue at County elections to accommodate two separate electoral divisions</i>	321	(99)	No change

GRANTHAM ST WULFRAM'S WARD

Polling district	Parish (where applicable)	Polling Place	Electorate	Postal Voters	Comments
GWA1 – Grantham St Wulfram's	-	Cliffedale Primary School, Northcliffe Road, Grantham, NG31 8DP	2053	(422)	No change
GWB1 – Grantham St Wulfram's	-	Communal Room, Manners Street, Grantham, NG31 8AR	1324	(239)	No change
GWC1 – Grantham St Wulfram's	-	Witham Room, Civic Entrance, St Peter's Hill, Grantham, NG31 6PZ <i>Two polling stations at this venue, for Grantham St Wulfram's and Grantham St Vincent's wards</i>	756	(94)	No change
GWD1 – Grantham St Wulfram's	-	Witham Room, Civic Entrance, St Peter's Hill, Grantham, NG31 6PZ	41	(9)	No change – this polling district comprises only 41 electors but cannot be joined to any other polling district in this ward due to currently being within a different county council electoral division.
GWE2 – Belton & Manthorpe	Belton & Manthorpe Parish – Rosedale Parish Ward	Cliffedale Primary School, Northcliffe Road, Grantham, NG31 8DP <i>Two separate polling stations will need to be located at this venue at County council and Parliamentary elections to accommodate the separate divisions/constituencies.</i>	242	(46)	Proposed change of polling place due to ward changes from Manthorpe Playgroup Hall to Cliffedale Primary School.

ISAAC NEWTON WARD

Polling district	Parish (where applicable)	Polling Place	Electorate	Postal Voters	Comments
INA1 – Colsterworth IND1 – Gunby and Stainby	Colsterworth Parish Gunby and Stainby Parish	Colsterworth Village Hall, Old Post Lane, Colsterworth, NG33 5PG	1460 <u>110</u> 1570	(266) <u>(15)</u> (281)	No change
INB1 – Easton INJ1 – Stoke Rochford	Easton Parish Stoke Rochford Parish	St Andrew & St Mary's Church, Village Street, Stoke Rochford, NG33 5EB	72 <u>126</u> 198	(16) <u>(25)</u> (41)	No change
INC1 – Great Ponton INE1 – Little Ponton	Great Ponton Parish Little Ponton & Stroxtan Parish	Great Ponton Village Centre, Path via Archers Way, Great Ponton, NG33 5DS	298 <u>159</u> 457	(52) <u>(27)</u> (79)	No change
INF1 – North Witham	North Witham Parish	North Witham Village Hall, North Witham, NG33 5JY	132	(25)	No change
ING1 – Skillington	Skillington Parish	The Methodist Chapel, Skillington, NG33 5HB	272	(30)	No change
INH1 – South Witham	South Witham Parish	Children's Centre, South Witham Primary School, Water Lane, South Witham NG33 5PH	1245	(166)	No change

LINCREST WARD

Polling district	Parish (where applicable)	Polling Place	Electorate	Postal Voters	Comments
LNA1 – Boothby Pagnell LNB1 - Bitchfield	Boothby Pagnell Parish Bitchfield and Bassingthorpe Parish	Boothby Pagnell Village Hall, Ponton Road, Boothby Pagnell, NG33 4DH	120 <u>113</u> 233	(21) <u>(30)</u> (51)	No change
LNC1 – Braceby LNJ1 - Ropsley	Braceby & Sapperton Parish Ropsley & Humby Parish	Ropsley Village Hall, Braceby Road, Ropsley, NG33 4BN	46 <u>668</u> 714	(6) <u>(110)</u> (116)	No change
LND1 – Heydour	Heydour Parish	Heydour Parish Hall, Green Lane, Aisby, NG32 3NE	269	(61)	No change
LNE1 – Ingoldsby LNF1 - Lenton	Ingoldsby Parish Lenton, Keisby & Osgodby Parish	Ingoldsby Village Hall, Main Street, Ingoldsby, NG33 4EJ	241 <u>143</u> 383	(39) <u>(44)</u> (83)	No change
LNG1 – Old Somerby	Old Somerby Parish	The Conservatory, Fox & Hounds Public House, Grantham Road, Old Somerby, NG33 4AB	192	(25)	No change
LNH1 – Pickworth	Pickworth Parish	Pickworth Village Hall, Village Street, Pickworth, NG34 0TD	142	(30)	No change
LNK1 – Welby	Welby Parish	The Crown & Anchor Public House, Main Street, Welby, NG32 3LP	146	(26)	No change

LOVEDEN HEATH WARD

Polling district	Parish (where applicable)	Polling Place	Electorate	Postal Voters	Comments
LVA2 – Caythorpe	Caythorpe Parish	Caythorpe and Frieston Village Hall, High Street, Caythorpe, NG32 3DR	1098	(187)	Proposed change of polling place from Children’s Centre to Caythorpe Village Hall.
LVB2 – Fenton LVE2 – Stubton	Fenton Parish Stubton Parish	Stubton Village Hall, Fenton Road, Stubton, NG23 5DB	112 <u>156</u> 268	(23) <u>(17)</u> (40)	No change
LVC2 – Fulbeck	Fulbeck Parish	Fulbeck Village Hall, Lincoln Road, Fulbeck, NG32 3JW	424	(78)	No change
LVD2 – Hough	Hough-on-the-Hill Parish	All Saints Church, High Road, Hough-on-the-Hill, NG32 2AZ	338	(85)	No change

MARKET & WEST DEEPING WARD

Polling district	Parish (where applicable)	Polling Place	Electorate	Postal Voters	Comments
MDA3 – Market Deeping	Market Deeping Parish	The Green School, Church Street, Market Deeping, PE6 8DA	2777	(506)	Proposed change to polling district boundary between MDA3 and MDB3 to create a more even split of electors between the two polling stations. Change of polling place for 541 electors from Deeping Community Centre to The Green School.
MDB3 – Market Deeping	Market Deeping Parish	Deeping Community Centre, 2 Douglas Road, Market Deeping PE6 8SX <i>This venue accommodates two polling stations – one for the Deeping St James ward and one for the Market Deeping ward.</i>	2329	(365)	
MDC3 – West Deeping	West Deeping Parish	West Deeping Village Hall, King Street, West Deeping PE6 9HP	222	(26)	No change

MORTON WARD

Polling district	Parish (where applicable)	Polling Place	Electorate	Postal Voters	Comments
MRA1 – Morton	Morton & Hanthorpe Parish	Morton (Bourne) Village Hall, High Street, Morton, PE10 0NR	1964	(316)	No change

PEASCLIFFE & RIDGEWAY WARD

Polling district	Parish (where applicable)	Polling Place	Electorate	Postal Voters	Comments
PCA2 – Ancaster	Ancaster Parish	Ancaster Parish Hall, Ermine Street, Ancaster, NG32 3PP	1314	(247)	No change
PCB2 – Barkston PCH2 - Syston	Barkston Parish Syston Parish	Barkston & Syston Village Hall, Main Road, Barkston, NG32 2NH	429 <u>132</u> 561	(76) <u>(25)</u> (101)	No change
PCC2 – Belton and Manthorpe	Belton and Manthorpe Parish – Belton parish ward	Manthorpe Playgroup Hall, Low Road, Manthorpe, NG31 8NQ	180	(50)	No change
PCD2 – Carlton Scroop PCF2 – Honington PCG2 - Normanton	Carlton Scroop Parish Honington Parish Normanton Parish	Carlton Scroop Village Hall, Newark Lane, Carlton Scroop NG32 3AR	158 119 <u>88</u> 365	(34) (34) <u>(22)</u> (90)	No change
PCE2 – Great Gonerby	Great Gonerby Parish – Gonerby parish ward	St Sebastian's C of E Primary School, High Street, Great Gonerby, NG31 8LB	1595	(310)	No change

STAMFORD ALL SAINTS WARD

Polling district	Parish (where applicable)	Polling Place	Electorate	Postal Voters	Comments
SAA1 – Stamford All Saints	All Saints North parish ward of Stamford Parish	Children’s Centre, Bluecoat Primary School, Green Lane, Stamford PE9 1HE	1977	(320)	No change
SAB1 – Stamford All Saints	All Saints North parish ward of Stamford parish	Malcolm Sargent Primary School, Empingham Road, Stamford PE9 1LG	1295	(160)	Proposed change of polling place from Bluecoat Primary School to Malcolm Sargent Primary School.
SAC1 – Stamford All Saints	All Saints South parish ward of Stamford parish	Danish Invader Public House, Empingham Road, Stamford, PE9 2SX <i>Two polling stations at this venue for St John’s and All Saints wards</i>	757	(95)	Proposed change of polling place from Malcolm Sargent Primary School to Danish Invader Public House

STAMFORD ST GEORGE’S WARD

Polling district	Parish (where applicable)	Polling Place	Electorate	Postal Voters	Comments
SGA1 – Stamford St George’s	St George’s parish ward of Stamford	Stamford Free Church, Kesteven Road, Stamford, PE9 1SU	1503	(206)	No change
SGB1 – Stamford St George’s	St George’s parish ward of Stamford	Essex Road Communal Room, Essex Road, Stamford PE9 1LG	835	(188)	Proposed change of polling place due to ward boundary changes from Bluecoat Primary School to Essex Road Communal Room
SGC1 – Stamford St George’s	St George’s parish ward of Stamford	Communal Room, Edmonds Close, Stamford, PE9 1XE	1703	(319)	No change

STAMFORD ST JOHN’S WARD

Polling district	Parish (where applicable)	Polling Place	Electorate	Postal Voters	Comments
SJA1 – Stamford St John’s	St John’s parish ward of Stamford	Malcolm Sargent Primary School, Empingham Road, Stamford, PE9 2SR	3062	(502)	No change (2 polling stations)
SJB1 – Stamford St John’s	St John’s parish ward of Stamford	Danish Invader Public House, Empingham Road, Stamford PE9 2SX <i>2 polling stations at this venue for St John’s and All Saints wards</i>	943	(163)	Proposed change of polling place from Malcolm Sargent Primary School to Danish Invader Public House

STAMFORD ST MARY'S WARD

Polling district	Parish (where applicable)	Polling Place	Electorate	Postal Voters	Comments
SMA1 – Stamford St Mary's	St Mary's parish ward of Stamford	Communal Room, Clare Close, Stamford PE9 2QA	1845	(325)	No change
SMB1 – Stamford St Mary's	St Mary's parish ward of Stamford	Stamford Arts Centre, 27 St Mary's Street, Stamford, PE9 2DL	1947	(348)	No change

TOLLER WARD

Polling district	Parish (where applicable)	Polling Place	Electorate	Postal Voters	Comments
TLA1 – Billingborough	Billingborough Parish	Billingborough Village Hall, Chapel Street, Billingborough NG34 0QH	1110	(191)	No change
TLB1 – Folkingham	Folkingham Parish	Folkingham Village Hall, Spring Lane/Market Place, Folkingham NG34 0SE	658	(113)	No change
TLC1 – Horbling	Horbling Parish	Horbling Meeting Room, Spring Lane, Horbling, NG34 0PF	341	(57)	No change

VIKING WARD

Polling district	Parish (where applicable)	Polling Place	Electorate	Postal Voters	Comments
VKA2 – Claypole	Claypole Parish	Claypole New Hall, Claypole CE Primary School, School Lane, Claypole NG23 5BH	1131	(202)	No change – village hall investigated as an alternative but does not provide adequate access at the present time.
VKB2 – Foston	Foston Parish	Foston Village Hall, Church Street, Foston, NG32 2LG	434	(68)	No change
VKC2 – Hougham VKE2 – Marston	Hougham Parish Marston Parish	Hougham & Marston Village Hall, Frinkley Lane, Hougham, NG32 2JA	151 323 474	(33) (48) (81)	No change
VKD2 – Long Bennington	Long Bennington Parish	Long Bennington Village Hall, Main Road, Long Bennington, NG23 5DJ	1779	(315)	No change
VKF2 – Dry Doddington	Westborough and Dry Doddington Parish	Dry Doddington Village Hall, Main Street, Dry Doddington, NG23 5HU	188	(23)	No change
VKG2 – Westborough	Westborough and Dry Doddington Parish	Westborough Village Hall, Westborough, NG23 5HL	118	(10)	No change

**SOUTH KESTEVEN DISTRICT COUNCIL
REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICTS AND POLLING PLACES 2014**

**SUMMARY OF REPRESENTATIONS RECEIVED DURING CONSULTATION
PERIOD**

<p>AVELAND WARD – Parishes of Aslackby & Laughton, Dowsby, Dunsby, Haconby, Pointon & Sempringham and Ripplingale</p> <p>No written representations received.</p>
<p>BELMONT WARD – Part of Parish of Londonthorpe & Harrowby Without (excluding newly created Bridge End Parish Ward)</p> <p>No written representations received.</p>
<p>BELVOIR WARD – Parishes of Denton, Harlaxton, Woolsthorpe-by-Belvoir, Wyville-Cum-Hungerton, Allington, Barrowby and Sedgebrook</p> <p>No written representations received.</p>
<p>BOURNE AUSTERBY WARD</p> <p>No written representations received.</p>
<p>BOURNE EAST WARD</p> <p><u>Bourne Town Council</u> - BNM1 Bourne East (Twenty) Advised that the venue used as the polling station for the area of Twenty is currently on the market and may no longer be available if it should turn into a purely private residence. Suggestion that the use of the village hall be revisited.</p> <p><i>Response : discussions have taken place with the trustee of Twenty Village Hall who has confirmed that although the village hall is not currently in use it is possible to open for polling day as the premises continue to be connected to services and have relevant public liability insurance in place. The proposals detailed in Appendix 1 recommend that the polling station be relocated to the Twenty Village Hall due to the uncertainty of the availability of the current polling station venue.</i></p>
<p>BOURNE WEST WARD</p> <p>No written representations received.</p>
<p>CASEWICK WARD – Parishes of Barholm and Stowe, Baston, Greatford, Langtoft, Tallington and Uffington</p> <p>No written representations received.</p>
<p>CASTLE WARD – Parishes of Burton Coggles, Corby Glen, Edenham, Irnham, Kirkby Underwood, Swayfield, Swinstead</p> <p>No written representations received.</p>
<p>DEEPING ST JAMES – Parish of Deeping St James</p> <p>No written representations received.</p>

<p>DOLE WOOD WARD – Parishes of Braceborough and Wilsthorpe and Thurlby.</p> <p>No written representations received.</p>
<p>GLEN WARD – Parishes of Careby, Aunby & Holywell, Carlby, Castle Bytham, Counthorpe & Creeton, Little Bytham, Toft & Lound with Manthorpe and Witham-on-the-Hill</p> <p>No written representations received.</p>
<p>GRANTHAM ARNOLDFIELD WARD</p> <p>No written representations received.</p>
<p>GRANTHAM BARROWBY GATE WARD</p> <p>No written representations received.</p>
<p>GRANTHAM EARLESFIELD WARD</p> <p>Comments received from Grantham Branch Labour Group and Grantham and Stamford Constituency Labour Party - see section below relating to responses from political parties</p>
<p>GRANTHAM HARROWBY WARD</p> <p>No written representations received.</p>
<p>GRANTHAM SPRINGFIELD WARD</p> <p>No written representations received.</p>
<p>GRANTHAM ST VINCENT’S WARD</p> <p>Comments received from Grantham Branch Labour Group and Grantham and Stamford Constituency Labour Party - see section below relating to responses from political parties</p>
<p>GRANTHAM ST WULFRAM’S WARD</p> <p>No written representations received.</p>
<p>ISAAC NEWTON WARD – Parishes of Colsterworth, Easton, Great Ponton, Gunby & Stainby, Little Ponton & Stroxton, North Witham, Skillington, South Witham and Stoke Rochford</p> <p>Colsterworth & District Parish Council – satisfied with current polling stations</p>
<p>LINCREST WARD – Boothby Pagnell, Bitchfield & Bassingthorpe, Braceby & Sapperton, Heydour, Ingoldslby, Lenton Keisby & Osgodby, Old Somerby, Pickworth, Ropsley & Humby and Welby</p> <p>No written representations received.</p>
<p>LOVEDEN HEATH WARD – Parishes of Caythorpe, Fenton, Fulbeck, Hough-on-the-Hill, Stubton</p> <p>No written representations received.</p>

MARKET AND WEST DEEPING WARD – Parishes of Market Deeping and West Deeping

Comments received from South Holland and the Deepings Liberal Democrats - see section below relating to responses from political parties

MORTON WARD – Parish of Morton

No written representations received.

PEASCLIFFE AND RIDGEWAY WARD – Parishes of Ancaster, Barkston, Belton & Manthorpe (Belton Parish ward), Carlton Scroop, Great Gonerby (Gonerby Parish ward), Honington, Normanton, Syston

Barkston and Syston Parish Council – no objection to the proposals as drafted

STAMFORD ALL SAINTS WARD

Comments received:

District Councillor – request that consideration be given to relocating the streets west of Casterton Road to the Malcolm Sargent Primary School. Potential new venue of the Scout premises on Empingham Road.

Ward member – suggestion for sites in Chatsworth Road/Haddon Road be considered for siting a mobile polling station for voters in this area.

Response:

Alternative options for the area west of Casterton Road (new polling district SAB1) have been considered by officers. Sites on Chatsworth Road/Haddon Road were felt to be unsuitable for siting a mobile polling station due to the grass surface, together with difficulty identifying ownership and making contact. Scout hall in Empingham Road was considered unsuitable due to poor access to the building and very narrow access from the road. The proposals included in Appendix 1 recommend a change of polling station for voters in this polling district, from the current location of Bluecoat Primary School which is located at the far eastern edge of the ward, to the Malcolm Sargent Primary School.

As a result of this proposal it has been necessary to review the polling station arrangements for polling district SAC1 to ensure the number of voters allocated to the Malcolm Sargent Primary School is not excessive. The proposals recommend that the polling station for polling district SAC1 be located at the Danish Invader Public House in Empingham Road. This venue has a separate function room which offers good level access and a large car park and is located in a convenient location for voters in this polling district.

STAMFORD ST GEORGE'S WARD

No written representations received.

STAMFORD ST JOHN'S WARD

No written representations received.

Returning Officer proposals: As a result of the proposal to allow voters in the SAB1 polling district of the All Saints Ward to vote at the Malcolm Sargent Primary School, it has been necessary to review the allocation of polling stations in this ward. Whilst the majority of voters in this ward will continue to vote at the Malcolm Sargent Primary School, it is proposed that a new polling station be located at the Danish Invader Public House in Empingham Road for voters in the new polling district SJB1. This venue has a separate function room which offers good level access and a large car park and is located in a convenient location for voters in this polling district.

STAMFORD ST MARY'S WARD

No written representations received.

TOLLER WARD – Parishes of Billingborough, Folkingham and Horbling

No written representations received.

VIKING WARD – Parishes of Claypole, Foston, Hougham, Long Bennington, Marston, Westborough and Dry DoddingtonComments received:

Claypole Parish Council - As an alternative to the current polling station at the Claypole Hall at the Primary School, the Parish Council highlighted the availability of the Claypole Village Hall on Main Street in the centre of the village. Playgroup was previously held there and is now available for use.

Response : The Claypole Village Hall has been visited however at the present time the building does not offer adequate access. The building has several steps at the entrance doors for which temporary ramps are provided but it is felt that these measures are not sufficient to provide the level of access required. It is recommended that the polling station remain at the Claypole Primary School and this reviewed again in the event that Village Hall has modifications to improve the access.

GENERAL COMMENTS (ALL WARDS)**Mohammed Iqbal Patel - Halo Able Tec/ Lincolnshire Independent Living:**

- This exercise should not be done as a standalone exercise relating to access in to polling stations and the whole experience should be looked at including alternative ways that reasonable adjustments can be made.
- Only seems like access from the point of view of Wheelchairs has been considered, what about vision/hearing impairment and appropriate signage for such and including those for whom English is not the first language.
- The submission that a ramp is available, on its own without further information is concerning. Will the ramp be suitable for different type of wheelchairs/scooters? Will it be of sufficient strength and length to deal with power and other type of scooters? Is the door frame of a sufficient width to allow entrance?
- Has the council given alternatives and advertised these sufficiently i.e. postal voting or proxy voting for those who are to ill/infirm/disabled to make it to the polling station

Response: issues raised in this response have been considered as part of the stage 1 equality impact assessment. In addition to the provision of ramps, door and corridor widths are considered as part of any polling place assessment. Postal voting is available to all electors and this information is provided on all registration forms and on poll cards in addition to additional publicity in advance of all elections. Large print documents and Braille aids are provided at the polling stations for visually impaired voters however hearing loops are not currently used in polling stations – this could be considered for future as could the translation of certain election notices where a need is identified.

Ian Fytche, Acting Returning Officer, Sleaford and North Hykeham Constituency (North Kesteven District Council):

Happy with the draft proposals and has noted that they may be changed to the proposed polling stations for Caythorpe and Claypole and the alternative venues seem appropriate.

POLITICAL PARTY RESPONSES:**South Holland and the Deepings Liberal Democrats:**

Deepings polling stations are all accessible and ok. Regarding number of voters at Deepings

Community Centre in polling district MDB3, suggest to transfer some of the MDB3 register to MDA3 – for instance The Grove and the Spinney, which are close to the Green School. Alternatively there are two primary schools off Godsey Lane.

Response : proposals included at Appendix 1 recommend that the polling district boundary between the two Market Deeping polling districts be modified to enable voters in the areas around The Orchard/The Grove and Wellington Way/Lancaster Way to vote at the Green School instead of the Deeping Community Centre. This will reduce the number of voters allocated to vote at the Deeping Community Centre to below the allowed threshold of 2500.

Grantham Branch Labour Party:

1. In the vast majority of cases, the polling stations are unchanged, and people will still be voting in the same place as before. We have no objections to any of these cases.

2. GEC1 polling district. We are very concerned about the proposal to move these voters' polling station to the Earlesfield estate, for a number of reasons.

2.1. Firstly, it means that all the voters affected will have to travel a lot further. Their current polling stations are within easy walking distance of most of the voters affected. If they have to go onto the Earlesfield estate, an able-bodied person could walk, but it is the sort of distance that a lot of people will (in practice) make by car. This is not a good thing, and will also constitute a psychological barrier to voting, leading to reduced voter turnout.

2.2. There is an additional psychological barrier, in that many people living on the roads affected never have any reason to go onto the Earlesfield estate at all, from one month to the next. There are no shops that attract customers from off the estate in significant numbers. While some people may go the Meres (although lots of people do not), voters in RB1 district are much more likely to go up Dysart Road. Expecting people to go to an area they do not know, and never visit, in order to vote can only harm voter turnout.

2.3. We accept that the argument that residents of these areas do not visit the Earlesfield estate is weaker in the case of RC1 voters, as they would use Swingbridge Road to get to the proposed polling station, and some of them will use that road regularly to get to the A1. But that does not apply to the RB1 voters, who need to go up Trent Road, even though it is not a road that they would normally travel on.

2.4. We would certainly like to see the current RB1 voters continuing to vote in their current location at Huntingtower School, and would prefer to see the current RC1 voters continuing to vote at Walton Girls School.

3. GVA1 polling district. The most obvious location for these voters would be Harrowby Infants School. Every voter would have less far to travel than they do at present, and fewer would have to cross (busy) New Beacon Road.

4. GVC1 and GVE1. Why not have these as one polling district?

5. GWE2. This proposal looks sensible, but should it not be recorded as a change?

Response:

Grantham Earlesfield Ward : Alternative options have been considered in relation to the most appropriate polling place for voters in polling district GEC1. The proposals detailed at Appendix 1 recommend that the Scout Hall in Earlesfield Lane be used as the polling station for voters in this polling district. This venue is well situated within the polling district and has off road parking facilities. The building does have a step at the entrance and a temporary ramp can be provided to overcome this issue however future improvements are planned for the building.

Grantham St Vincent's Ward:

GVA1 : The Harrowby Infants School and the Harrowby Youth Club have been considered as possible polling stations for the new polling district GVA1. Unfortunately the use of the Harrowby Infants School would involve the school having to close on polling day and the Harrowby Youth Club is not available for use as a polling station due to other commitments on Thursdays. The proposals at Appendix 1 recommend that voters in the polling district vote at the Communal Room in Sandon Close which is located within the ward and in the neighbouring polling district of GVB1.

GVC1 and GVE1: this polling district comprises only 69 electors but cannot be joined to any other polling district in this ward due to currently being within a different county council electoral division.

Grantham St Wulfram's Ward - GWE2: agree, this is a change to the current polling arrangements.

Grantham & Stamford Constituency Labour Party:

In general endorse all the comments made by the Grantham Branch.

In the case of GEC1 polling district, we endorse the comments made by the Grantham Branch about the importance of these voters voting locally, and not on the Earlesfield estate. As such, we would accept your proposal that the scout premises in Earlesfield Lane is appropriate, as far as location is concerned. However, if that site is not available, the arguments about not voting on the Earlesfield estate still stand, and we would want to see the polling station at a different location east of the Canal. Under these circumstances we would still support Grantham Branch's proposal that these voters continue to vote at their existing polling stations. Your argument about having different polling stations in the same building is not an insurmountable problem, as there are other cases where this happens. And besides, opening a second polling station at Huntingtower School is surely no more effort than opening one polling station at Earlesfield Lane scout hall and one at Huntingtower School.

Response : Alternative options have been considered in relation to the most appropriate polling place for voters in polling district GEC1. The proposals detailed at Appendix 1 recommend that the Scout Hall in Earlesfield Lane be used as the polling station for voters in this polling district. This venue is well situated within the polling district and has off road parking facilities. The building does have a step at the entrance and a temporary ramp can be provided to overcome this issue however future improvements are planned for the building.