

Consultation Document:

Polling District and Polling Places Review

For the Fenland Area of North East Cambridgeshire Constituency

2023

www.fenland.gov.uk

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Background

The Representation of People Act places a duty on the Council to divide the District into polling districts and to designate polling places for each district. The Council also has a duty to keep those arrangements under review.

In compliance with the Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places (Parliamentary Elections) Regulations 2006, every Council in England and Wales was required to undertake and complete a review of all of the polling districts and polling places in its area by 31 December 2007, which accordingly was undertaken in Fenland, and agreed by a full meeting of the Council in December, 2007.

Subsequent reviews have taken place in 2014, 2016, 2018 and 2020. The last review took place in 2022 due to Local Government Boundary Commission for England's Electoral Review of Fenland and changes to the number of councillors and boundaries of some of the wards within Fenland and the implications of the Elections Act in terms of Voter ID and accessibility.

This review is a compulsory review which must be started and completed within a 16 month period that starts on 1 October every fifth year after 1 October 2013.

UK Parliamentary Boundary Review

The review will take into account the proposals of the new UK Parliamentary Constituency Boundaries, which are expected to come into effect at the next UK Parliamentary General Election, which has to take place before 28 January 2025.

The new Parliamentary Constituency Boundary for North East Cambridgeshire is fully coterminous with the Fenland District Council boundary. However, as these new Parliamentary boundaries do not come into effect until the next Parliamentary General Election there are still some polling districts, places and stations that lie within East Cambridgeshire District Council area but this review focuses solely on the Fenland polling districts and places.

Definitions

a) Parliamentary Constituency

The area designated by the Boundary Commission having separate representation in the House of Commons. This cannot be changed by the review. The division of the constituency into polling districts and places is the subject of the review.

b) Polling Districts

The area created by the separation of a ward, division or constituency into smaller parts, within which a polling place can be determined which is convenient to the electors.

c) Polling Places

The building or area in which polling stations will be selected by the Returning Officer.

d) Polling Station

The actual area where the process of voting takes place. This must be located within the polling place and designated for the particular polling district. This function is the responsibility of the Returning Officer.

The Review Process

The Council is required to publish notice of the holding of a review. This has been carried out by way of a notice posted at Fenland District Council Offices and on the Council's website.

The timetable for the review is set out below:

Publication of notice and consultation document	w/c 2 October 2023
Closing date for representations	10 November 2023
Consideration of all representations	24 November 2023

Returning Officer approves final scheme	w/c 27 November 2023
Presentation at full Council	11 December 2023
Register of Electors published in accordance with the	1 February 2024
new scheme	

Criteria for Polling Places and Polling Districts

There are a number of factors to take into account when considering polling districts and polling places. Guidance from the Electoral Commission lists the following key considerations:

With regard to polling district boundaries:

- Boundaries: Are they well defined? For example, do they follow the natural boundaries of the area? If not, is it clear which properties belong in the polling district?
- Location: Are there suitable transport links within the polling district, and how do they relate to the areas of the district that are most highly populated? Are there any obstacles to voters crossing the current polling district and reaching the polling place e.g., steep hills, impassable major roads, railway lines, rivers?

With regard to polling places:

- The location: Is it reasonably accessible within the polling district? Does it avoid barriers for the voter such as steep hills, major roads, rivers, etc.? Are there any convenient transport links?
- Size: Can it accommodate more than one polling station if required? If multiple polling stations are required, is the polling place ample enough to accommodate all voters going into and out of the polling stations, even where there is a high turnout?
- Suitability: Is the building readily available in the event of any unscheduled elections? Is there any possibility that the building may be demolished as part of a new development?
- Accessibility: Is the building accessible to all those entitled to attend the polling place?

The Electoral Commission also supplies a number of templates to use to assess the suitability of polling place facilities.

The Electoral Commission further advises that location, size and layout of any polling place/station must be a key consideration when deciding on the number of electors to be allocated to a polling station and has set a suggested ratio of electors attending a polling station to be 2,250.

Inevitably there will be an element of compromise between the different factors involved, and indeed the Electoral Commission acknowledges this as follows: "In practice, however, the choice of polling places will often be a balance between the quality of a building (access, facilities, etc.) and the proximity of the building to the electors. When making a decision, all factors will need to be considered and the authority will need to be able to demonstrate their reasoning behind the decision."

The Role of the Returning Officer

The Council is required to consult the (Acting) Returning Officer for every Parliamentary constituency that is wholly or partly within its area. This means that the Returning Officer for the District of Fenland must consult the Returning Officer for East Cambs District Council in respect of the Wards within the East Cambridgeshire District Council area that lie within the Parliamentary constituency of North East Cambridgeshire. The Council also need to consult with the Returning Officer of Cambridgeshire County Council as it is responsible for conducting elections in the Fenland area on behalf of the County Council.

Other representations

In reviewing polling districts and polling places, the Council is required actively to seek representations from such persons as it thinks have particular expertise in relation to:

Access to premises; or

Facilities for persons who have different forms of disability.

Such persons must be given the opportunity to make representations and to comment on the representations made by the Returning Officer.

The Council will also notify all local political parties or groups, election agents, ward councillors, etc. of the review.

Summary of Consultees:

The Returning Officer(s) for East Cambs District Council & Cambridgeshire County Council The Member of Parliament

Mayor of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Police and Crime Commissioner

Members of Fenland District Council

Members of Cambridgeshire County Council representing the Fenland area

All the Clerks for Town / Parish Councils in the Fenland area

Various disability and equality groups within the District

Candidates and Election Agents who acted at the 2023 District elections

Polling places within the Fenland area

In addition, any elector in the constituency may make representations on the designation of polling places to the Council.

Completion of the review

On completion of a review, the Council is required to give reasons for its decisions in respect of the designation of both polling districts and polling places.

In addition, the Council must publish:

- all correspondence sent to the Returning Officer in connection with the review and all
 correspondence sent to any person who the Council thinks has particular expertise in relation
 to access to premises or facilities for persons who have different forms of disability;
- all representations made by any person in connection with the review;
- the minutes of any meetings held by the Council where details of the review have been considered;
- details of the actual designations of polling districts and polling places agreed as a result of the review; and
- details of where the results of the review have been published. The Council will publish results of the review on their website.

Challenge of review

Although the Electoral Commission has no initial role in the review process itself, it does have an important role in respect of considering representations and observations made that a Council has not conducted a review so as to:

- meet the reasonable requirements of the electors in the constituency, or a body of them (i.e the reasonable requirements of a particular area of the authority have not been satisfactorily met); or
- take sufficient account of the accessibility to disabled persons of polling stations within a designated polling place.

Who may make a representation to the Electoral Commission?

Section 18D (1) of the Representation of the People Act 1983, sets out who may make representations to the Electoral Commission namely;

- thirty or more registered electors in the constituency
- any person who made representations to the Council when the review was being undertaken (except the Returning Officer)

- any person who is not an elector within the constituency who the Electoral Commission feels
 has sufficient interest in the accessibility of disabled persons to polling places within the area
 or has particular expertise in relation to the access to premises or facilities of disabled
 persons;
- any parish council which is wholly or partly situated within the constituency or parish meeting where there is no council.

Also the Returning Officer may make observations on any representations made to the Commission.

Review by the Electoral Commission

The Electoral Commission is required to consider any such representations and observations and may direct the relevant council to make any alterations it sees necessary to the polling places designated by the review.

Should a Council fail to make the alterations within two months of the direction being given, the Commission may make the alterations itself.

Proposal

The publication of the consultation document contains details of current polling district and polling places for each of the 18 wards within the District of Fenland, along with the details of any proposed changes.

Representations

Any persons wishing to make comments or representations regarding the proposals may do so.

Any representations you wish to make should be received by 4:45pm on Friday, 10 November 2023.

All representations should be sent to:
The Polling Districts and Polling Places Review
Electoral Services
Fenland District Council
Fenland Hall
County Road
March
PE15 8NQ

If you prefer you can email your representations to elections@fenland.gov.uk.

For any queries, please telephone 01354 622323.

All representations will be published on the Council's website as soon as possible after receipt. Even if you have already commented on the proposals, you may make further submissions in response to views and comments you see on the website.

The final decision will be taken by Council on 11 December 2023.

The new Register of Electors containing any revised polling districts will be published on 1 February 2024. Any new polling districts and polling places will become effective at all elections held after this date.

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FENLAND DISTRICT COUNCIL CURRENT SCHEDULE OF POLLING DISTRICTS AND PLACES

WARD	POLLING DISTRICT LETTER	PARISH	POLLING PLACE
CHATTERIS NORTH AND MANEA	CNM1	Birch, Chatteris	Chatteris Library, Furrowfields Road Or if that polling place is unavailable Bricstan Hall, Church Lane
	CNM2	Slade Lode North, Chatteris	Quaker Way Residents Community Room Or if that polling place is unavailable Chatteris Children's Centre, Larham Way
	CNM3	Manea	Manea Village Hall, School Lane Or if that polling place is unavailable Manea British Legion, East Street
CHATTERIS SOUTH	CS1	Slade Lode South, Chatteris	Quaker Way Residents Community Room Or if that polling place is unavailable Chatteris Children's Centre, Larham Way
	CS2	The Mills, Chatteris	The Masonic Hall, Huntingdon Road Or if that polling place is unavailable Chatteris Town Football Club Pavilion, West Street
	CS3	Wenneye, Chatteris	Emmanuel Church Hall, East Park Street Or if that polling place is unavailable Salvation Army Fortress, East Park Street
DODDINGTON AND WIMBLINGTON	DW1	Doddington	Doddington Village Hall, Benwick Road Or if that polling place is unavailable Doddington Scout Hall, Benwick Road
	DW2	Wimblington	Wimblington Parish Hall, Addison Road Or if that polling place is unavailable Parkfield Sports Centre, Chapel Lane
	DW3	Wimblington (Stonea)	The Golden Lion Public House, Sixteen Foot Bank Or if that polling place is unavailable Skylark Centre, Manea Road
ELM AND CHRISTCHURCH	ECH1	Elm (Elm & Fridaybridge)	Elm Centre, Main Road Or if that polling station is unavailable Elm Parish Council Offices, Begdale Road
	ECH2	Elm (Elm & Friday Bridge)	Fridaybridge Tower Hall, Maltmas Road Or if that polling place is unavailable Friday Bridge Primary School, Maltmas Road
	ECH3	Elm (Coldham)	Mobile Polling Station at Coldham Playing Field, Station Road Or if that polling place is unavailable a mobile polling station in the polling district
	ECH4	Elm (Rings End)	Play 2 Day, The Old Station Yard, Gull Road Or if that polling place is unavailable The Oliver Twist, High Road
	ECH5	Christchurch	Christchurch Community Centre, Upwell Road Or if the polling place is unavailable Townley Primary School, Crown Road
LEVERINGTON AND WISBECH RURAL	LWR1	Peckover West, Wisbech	Wisbech Cricket and Hockey Club, Chapel Road Or if that polling place is unavailable Wisbech Rugby Club, Chapel Road

WARD	POLLING DISTRICT LETTER	PARISH	POLLING PLACE
LEVERINGTON AND WISBECH RURAL	LWR2	Leverington	Leverington Sports and Social Club, Church Road Or if that polling place is unavailable Leverington Village Hall, Gorefield Road
	LWR3		Leverington Village Hall, Gorefield Road Or if that polling place is unavailable Leverington Sports and Social Club, Church Road
	LWR4	Newton-in- the-Isle	Newton-in-the-Isle Village Hall, Church Lane Or if that polling place is unavailable St James Church, Church Lane
	LWR5	Tydd St Giles	Tydd St Giles Community Centre, Broad Drove East Or if that polling place is unavailable Kinderley Primary School, Church Lane
MARCH EAST	ME1	East, March	St Peters Church Room, High Street Or if that polling place is unavailable St Peters Church, High Street
	ME2		Fleming Court off Smiths Drive Or if that polling place is unavailable First March Scout Hall, Badgeney Road
	ME3	Town End, March	March and District Children's Centre, Cavalry Drive Or if that polling place is unavailable Cavalry School, Cavalry Drive
MARCH NORTH	MN1	North, March	Roman Catholic Church Hall, St Johns Road Or if that polling place is unavailable March Youth and Community Centre, Station Road
	MN2		The GER, Robingoodfellows Lane Or if that polling place is unavailable March Town Football Clubhouse, Robingoodfellows Lane
	MN3		St Johns Church Hall, Station Road Or if that polling place is unavailable Fenland Hall, March
MARCH SOUTH	MS1	South, March	March Cricket Club, Burrowmoor Road Or if that polling place is unavailable Providence Baptist Church Hall, Burrowmoor Road
	MS1		St Wendredas Church Hall, Church Street Or if that polling place is unavailable Neale Wade Academy, Wimblington Road
MARCH WEST AND BENWICK	MWB1	Peas Hill, March	Rookswood Club, West End Or if that polling place is unavailable a mobile polling station in the polling district
	MWB2		Rookswood Club, West End Or if that polling place is unavailable a mobile polling station in the polling district
	MWB3	West, March	St Marys Church Hall, Wisbech Road, Westry Or if that polling place is unavailable March Town Cricket Club, Burrowmoor Road
	MWB4	Benwick	Benwick Village Hall, High Street Or if that polling place is unavailable Benwick Primary School, High Street

WARD	POLLING DISTRICT LETTER	PARISH	POLLING PLACE
PARSON DROVE AND WISBECH ST MARY	PDW1	Parson Drove	Parson Drove Village Hall, Main Road Or if that polling place is unavailable Parson Drove Pavilion, Main Road
	PDW2	Wisbech St Mary (Wisbech St Mary)	Wisbech St Mary Sports and Community Centre, Beechings Close Or if that polling place is unavailable Wisbech St Mary Academy, Church Road
	PDW3	Wisbech St Mary (Murrow)	Murrow Village Hall, Murrow Bank Or if that polling place is unavailable Murrow Methodist Church, Front Road
	PDW4	Wisbech St Mary (Wisbech St Mary – Guyhirn)	Play 2 Day, The Old Station Yard, Gull Road Or if that polling place is unavailable The Oliver Twist, High Road
	PDW5	Wisbech St Mary (Wisbech St Mary - Thorney Toll)	Thorney Toll Village Hall, Main Road Or if that polling place is unavailable a mobile polling station in the polling district
	PDW6	Gorefield	Gorefield Community Hall, Wolf Lane Or if that polling place is unavailable Gorefield Village Hall, Gote Lane
WHITTLSEY EAST AND VILLAGES	WHE1	Bassenhally, Whittlesey	Straw Bear PH, Drybread Road Or if that polling place is unavailable Alderman Jacobs School, Drybread Road
	WHE2	Bassnehally, Whittlesey	Straw Bear PH, Drybread Road Or if that polling place is unavailable Alderman Jacobs School, Drybread Road
	WHE3	Coates & Eastrea, Whittlesey	Eastrea Centre, Roman Gardens Or if that polling place is unavailable The Nags Head PH, Eastrea Road
	WHE4	Coates & Eastrea, Whittlesey	Coates Public Hall, 1 The Fold Or if that polling place is unavailable Coates Primary School, The Fold
	WHE5	Coates & Eastrea, Whittlesey	The Three Horseshoes Inn, March Road Or if that polling place is unavailable a mobile polling station in the polling district
LATTERSEY	WHL	Lattersey Whittlesey	Quinion Close Community Room Or if that polling place is unavailable New Road Primary School, New Road

WARD	POLLING DISTRICT LETTER	PARISH	POLLING PLACE
WHITTLESEY NORTH WEST	WHNW1	North West, Whittlesey	Whittlesey Baptist Church, Gracious Street Or if that polling place is unavailable Ivy Leaf Club, Gracious Street
	WHNW2		St Johns Ambulance HQ, Plough Road Or if that polling place is unavailable Ivy Leaf Club, Gracious Street
WHITTLESEY SOUTH	WHS1	St Andrews, Whittlesey	St Andrews Parish Hall, Parkinson Lane Or if that polling place is unavailable Whittlesey Library, Market Street
	WHS2	South, Whittlesey	Manor Leisure Centre, Station Road Or if that polling place is unavailable CCC Youth, Child and Family Centre, Scaldgate
	WHS3	South, Whittlesey (Pondersbridge)	Pondersbridge Village Hall, Oilmills Road Or if that polling place is unavailable a mobile polling station in the polling district
WISBECH NORTH	WN	North, Wisbech	The Oasis Village Centre, St Michaels Avenue Or if that polling place is unavailable a mobile polling station at The Oasis Centre
WISBECH RIVERSIDE	WR1	Claremont, Wisbech	Robert Hall Centre, Lynn Road Or if that polling place is unavailable a dual station The Boathouse, Harbour Square
	WR2	Clarence, Wisbech	Robert Hall Centre, Lynn Road Or if that polling place is unavailable a dual station The Boathouse, Harbour Square
	WR3	Riverside, Wisbech	The Boathouse, Harbour Square Or if that polling place is unavailable a dual station at Robert Hall Centre, Lynn Road
	WR4	Peckover East, Wisbech	Wisbech Cricket and Hockey Club, Harecroft Road Or if that polling place is unavailable Wisbech Rugby Club, Chapel Lane
WISBECH SOUTH	WS1	Octavia Hill, Wisbech	College of West Anglia Isle Campus, Ramnoth Road Or if that polling place is unavailable Salvation Army Centre, John Thompson Road
	WS2		Awdry House, Ramnoth Road Or if that polling place is unavailable Thomas Clarkson Academy, Corporation Road
	WS3	Medworth, Wisbech	Wisbech St Raphael Disabled Club, Love Lane Or if that polling place is unavailable Queen Mary Centre, Queens Road
WISBECH WALSOKEN AND WATERLEES	WWW1	Waterlees, Wisbech	The Oasis Village Centre, St Michaels Avenue Or if that polling place is unavailable Kingdom Hall, Tinkers Drove (if suitable)/a mobile polling station at The Oasis Centre
	WWW2	Walsoken, Wisbech	Walsoken Village Hall, Kirkgate Stret Or if that polling place is unavailable The Black Bear PH, Old Lynn Road
	WW3	Wisbech	Meadowgate Academy, Meadowgate Lane Or if the polling place is unavailable another room or a mobile polling station at Meadowgate Academy

Existing Polling District, Polling Places and Polling Stations and the Returning Officer's Proposals

NB: The Electorate Figures listed below show the position as at 1 September 2023

CHATTERIS NORTH AND MANEA WARD

Number of Polling Districts	Three
Number of Polling Places	Three

Notes	Planned Developments?		
	• CNM1 – 6		
	• CNM2 – 118		
	• CNM3 - 110		

Polling	Electorate		No of AV		rate No of AV				Disabled
District	Current	2028	Current		Current Polling Place	Proposed Polling Place	Access?		
		Estimate		Estimate					
CNM1	2200	2360	427	448	Chatteris Library, Furrowfields Road Or if polling place is unavailable Bricstan Hall, Church Lane	No Change	Yes		
CNM2	1324	1564	201	235	Quaker Way Residents Community Room Or if the polling place is unavailable Chatteris Children's Centre, Larham Way	No Change	Yes		
CNM3	2131	407	2436	463	Manea Village Hall, School Lane Or if that polling place is unavailable British Legion Club, East Street	No Change	Yes		

Returning Officer's Representations

It is proposed that the polling stations for these polling districts remain unchanged. Although the 2028 estimate for both CNM1 and CMN3 exceeds the Electoral Commissions recommended number of electors attending a polling station, these are the total electorate figures and the postal voters need to be deducted from this so in reality the in-person electors are for CNM1 - 1912 and CNM3 - 1973.

There are no known issues in terms of accessibility, availability and facilities with any of these polling stations within these polling districts, which have previously been used successfully in the past.

I consider that the polling districts and places for Chatteris North and Manea ward to be appropriate.

CHATTERIS SOUTH WARD

Number of Polling Districts	Three
Number of Polling Places	Three

Notes	Planned Developments?
	• CS1 – 10
	• CS2 – 73
	• CS3 - 329

Polling	Electorate		No of AV				Disabled
District	Current	2028 Estimate	Current	2028 Estimate	Current Polling Place	Proposed Polling Place	Access?
CS1	675	780	103	117	Quaker Way Residents Community Room Or if the polling place is unavailable Chatteris Children's Centre, Larham Way	No Change	Yes
CS2	2165	2540	318	381	The Masonic Hall, Huntingdon Road Or if that polling place is unavailable Chatteris Town Football Club Pavilion, West Street	No Change	Yes
CS3	1709	2399	292	408	Emmanuel Church Hall, East Park Street Or if that polling place is unavailable Salvation Army Fortress, East Park Street	No Change	Yes

Returning Officer's Representations

It is proposed that the polling stations for these polling districts remain unchanged. Although the 2028 estimate for both CS2 and CS3 exceeds the Electoral Commissions recommended number of electors attending a polling station, these are the total electorate figures and the postal voters need to be deducted from this so in reality the in-person electors are for CS2 - 2159 and CS3 - 1991.

There are no known issues in terms of accessibility, availability and facilities with any of these polling stations within these polling districts, which have previously been used successfully in the past.

I consider that the polling districts and places for Chatteris South ward to be appropriate.

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DODDINGTON AND WIMBLINGTON WARD

Number of Polling Districts	Two
Number of Polling Places	Two

Notes	Planned Developments?
	• DW1 – 25
	• DW2 – 66

Polling	Elec	Electorate		of AV			Disabled
District	Current	2028	Current	2028	Current Polling Place	Proposed Polling Place	Access?
		Estimate		Estimate			
DW1	1952	2057	343	370	Doddington Village Hall, Benwick Road Or if that polling place is unavailable Doddington Scout Hut, Benwick Road	No Change	Yes
DW2	1960	2125	342	380	Wimblington Parish Hall, Addison Road Or if that polling place is unavailable Parkfield Sports Centre, Chapel Lane	Merger of DW3 with DW2	Yes

Returning Officer's Representations

In relation to the former ward of DW3, it is proposed to merge Stonea with Wimblington as the Golden Lion PH is no longer open as a business and has been incorporated into residential accommodation. A visit has been made to Skylark Centre, which whilst is not in the centre of Stonea does still lie in the ward, to see if there is any accommodation suitable for use as a polling station and whilst it does have suitable accommodation that could be used as a polling station the centre is unwilling to make any part of the building available to us. There is the possibility that the car park could be used to place a mobile polling station but this does not come without its issues and the merger with Wimblington, Stonea is part of the Wimblington Parish, seems to be the best solution.

There are no known issues in terms of accessibility, availability and facilities with the polling stations at Doddington or Wimblington.

I consider that the polling districts and places for Doddington Ward to be appropriate.

I propose that the Polling Districts of DW2 and DW3 be merged to form DW2, with the polling place being Wimblington Parish Hall, Addison Road.

ELM AND CHRISTCHURCH WARD

Number of Polling Districts	Five
Number of Polling Places	Five

Notes	Planned Develop	ments?
	• ECH1 – 70	• ECH4 – 1
	• ECH2 – 15	• ECH5 – 17
	• ECH3 – 1	

Polling	Elec	torate	No	of AV	Current Polling Place		Disabled
District	Current	2028 Estimate	Current	2028 Estimate	Current Folling Flace	Proposed Polling Place	Access?
ECH1	1837	1962	383	412	Elm Centre, Main Road Or if that polling station is unavailable Elm Parish Council Offices, Begdale Road	No Change	Yes
ECH2	1018	1046	171	179	Fridaybridge Tower Hall, Maltmas Road Or if that polling place is unavailable Friday Bridge Primary School, Maltmas Road	No Change	Yes
ECH3	186	190	34	34	Mobile Polling Station at Coldham Playing Field, Station Road Or if that polling place is unavailable a mobile polling station in the polling district	No Change	Yes
ECH4	128	128	17	17	Play 2 Day, The Old Station Yard, Gull Road Or if that polling place is unavailable The Oliver Twist, High Road	No Change	Yes
ECH5	686	714	129	137	Christchurch Community Centre, Upwell Road Or if the polling place is unavailable Townley Primary School, Crown Road	No Change	Yes

Returning Officer's Representations

It is proposed that the polling stations for these polling districts remain unchanged.

There are no known issues in terms of accessibility, availability and facilities with any of these polling stations within these polling districts, which have previously been used successfully in the past.

I consider that the polling districts and places for Elm and Christchurch Ward to be appropriate.

LEVERINGTON AND WISBECH RURAL WARD

Number of Polling Districts	Five
Number of Polling Places	Five

Notes	Planned Developments?						
	•	LWR1 – 111 LWR2 – 63 LWR3 – 10	•	LWR4 – 9 LWR5 - 10			

Polling	Elect	orate	rate No c				Disabled
District	Current	2028 Estimate	Current	2028 Estimate	Current Polling Place	Proposed Polling Place	Access?
LWR1	754	1029	174	237	Wisbech Cricket and Hockey Club, Chapel Road Or if that polling place is unavailable Barton Road Pavilion	Alternative to be Wisbech Rugby Club, Chapel Road	Yes - with ramp
LWR2	1435	1735	340	416	Leverington Sports and Social Club, Church Road Or if that polling place is unavailable Leverington Village Hall, Gorefield Road	No Change	Yes
LWR3	1333	1543	238	278	Leverington Village Hall, Gorefield Road Or if that polling place is unavailable Leverington Sports and Social Club, Church Road	No Change	Yes
LWR4	600	705	111	134	Newton Village Hall, Church Lane Or if that polling place is unavailable St James Church, Church Lane	No Change	Yes
LWR5	973	1133	224	261	Tydd St Giles Community Centre, Broad Drove East Or if that polling place is unavailable Kinderley Primary School, Church Lane	No Change	Yes

Returning Officer's Representations

It is proposed that the polling stations for these polling districts would remain unchanged.

In relation to LWR1, Wisbech Cricket and Hockey Club is due to be refurbished during 2024 and once started will take 12 months to complete. It is not known when this work will exactly commence but the club does have the intention to have temporary buildings in situ throughout the duration of the build, which may be suitable for Polling Station use but it is not known until the building is in place and has been inspected. It is,

therefore, recommended to keep the Polling Place the same and if the club or temporary building is not suitable revert to the use of the alternative polling place, which is to be Wisbech Rugby Club, Chapel Lane as Barton Road Pavilion is still not suitable for use.

There are no known issues in terms of accessibility, availability and facilities with any of these polling stations within these polling districts, which have previously been used successfully in the past.

I consider that the polling districts and places for the Leverington and Wisbech Rural ward to be appropriate.

MARCH EAST WARD

Number of Polling Districts	Three
Number of Polling Places	Three

Notes	Planned Developments?
	• ME1 – 18
	• ME2 − 2
	• ME3 - 5

Polling District	Elec	torate	No	of AV	Current Polling Place		Disabled
	Current	2028 Estimate	Current	2028 Estimate	Current Polling Place	Proposed Polling Station	Access?
ME1	1742	1802	374	378	St Peters Church Room, High Street Or if that polling place is unavailable St Peters Church, High Street	No Change	Yes
ME2	1827	1867	300	299	Fleming Court Residents Community Room, off Smiths Drive Or if that polling place is unavailable First March Scout Hall, Badgeney Road	No Change	Yes
ME3	1506	1546	35	371	March and District Children's Centre, Cavalry Drive Or if that polling place is unavailable Cavalry School, Cavalry Drive	No Change	Yes

Returning Officer's Representations

It is proposed that the polling stations for these polling districts remain unchanged.

There are no known issues in terms of accessibility, availability and facilities with any of these polling stations within these polling districts, which have previously been used successfully in the past.

I consider that the polling districts and places for the March East ward to be appropriate.

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MARCH NORTH WARD

	Proposed
Number of Polling Districts	Three
Number of Polling Places	Three

Notes	Planned Development*s?			
	● MN1 – 37			
	• MN2 – 100			
	• MN3 - 53			

БШ	Elec	torate	No	of AV			D: 11 1
Polling District	Current	2028 Estimate	Current	2028 Estimate	Current Polling Place	Proposed Polling Place	Disabled Access?
MN1	1820	1885	358	377	Roman Catholic Church Hall, St Johns Road Or if that polling place is unavailable March Youth & Community Centre, Station Road	No Change	Yes
MN2	1844	1999	413	440	The GER, Robingoodfellows Lane Or if that polling place is unavailable March Town Football Clubhouse, Robingoodfellows Lane	No Change	Yes
MN3	2133	2238	400	425	St Johns Church Hall, Station Road Or if that polling place is unavailable Fenland Hall, County Road	No Change	Yes

Returning Officer's Representations

It is proposed that the polling stations for these polling districts remain unchanged.

There are no known issues in terms of accessibility, availability and facilities with any of these polling stations within these polling districts, which have previously been used successfully in the past.

I consider that the polling districts and places for the March North ward to be appropriate.

MARCH SOUTH WARD

	Proposed
Number of Polling Districts	Three
Number of Polling Places	Two

Notes	Planned Developments?
	• MS1 – 21
	• MS2 – 166
	• MS3 - 77

Polling	Elec	torate	No	of AV	Current Polling Place	Proposed Polling Place	Disabled
District	Current	2028	Current	2028	_		Access?
		Estimate		Estimate			
MS1*	1924	2556	357	548	March Cricket Club, Burrowmoor Road Or if that polling place is unavailable Providence Baptist Church Hall, Burrowmoor Road	No Change	Yes
MS2*	810	2310	147	416	St Wendredas Church Hall, Church Street Or if that polling place is unavailable Neale Wade Academy, Wimblington Road	No Change	Yes
MS3*	415	1135	94	261	St Wendredas Church Hall, Church Street Or if that polling place is unavailable Neale Wade Academy, Wimblington Road	New Polling District	Yes

^{*}Approximate figures only

Returning Officer's Representations

Due to the amount of growth in March South it has been necessary to create a new Polling District to handle the proposed forecast electors to 2028. MS1 has remained broadly the same but a few properties have moved into MS2, MS2 has been spilt and a new polling district of MS3 has been created. It is proposed that at present MS2 and MS3 electors use St Wendreda's Church Hall, Church Street, with the one Presiding Officer overseeing both registers but it will become necessary as the elector forecast increases to have St Wendreda's Church Hall as a dual station with two Presiding Officers and the elector numbers will be monitored in this respect.

Although the 2028 estimate for both MS1 and MS2 exceeds the Electoral Commissions recommended number of electors attending a polling station, these are the total electorate figures and the postal voters need to be deducted from this so in reality the in-person electors are for MS1 - 2008 and MS2 - 1894.

There are no known issues in terms of accessibility, availability and facilities with any of these polling stations within this polling district, which have previously been used successfully in the past.

I consider that the polling district and polling place of MS1 to be appropriate, although a few properties will move to polling district MS2.

I propose that MS2 be spilt to create the new Polling District of MS3, but consider the polling place remains appropriate.

I propose that a new polling district of MS3 be created in the March South ward consisting part of MS2, with the polling place to be St Wendreda's Church Hall, Church Street, served currently by one Presiding Officer.

MARCH WEST & BENWICK WARD

	Proposed
Number of Polling Districts	Four
Number of Polling Places	Four

Notes	Planned Developments?
	• MWB1 – 4
	• MWB2 – 25
	• MWB3 – 15
	• MWB4 - 9

Polling	Elec	torate	No	of AV			Disabled
District	Current	2028 Estimate	Current	2028 Estimate	Current Polling Place	Proposed Polling Place	Access?
MWB1	1466	1491	298	298	Rookswood Club, West End Or if that polling place is unavailable a mobile polling station in the polling district	No Change	Yes
MWB2	888	938	154	159	Rookswood Club, West End Or if that polling place is unavailable a mobile polling station in the polling district	No Change	Yes
MWB3	467	497	125	134	St Marys Church Hall, Wisbech Road, Westry Or if that polling place is unavailable March Town Cricket Club, Burrowmoor Road	No Change	Yes
MWB4	825	850	148	153	Benwick Village Hall, High Street Or if that polling place is unavailable Benwick Primary School, High Street	No Change	Yes

Returning Officer's Representations

It is proposed that the polling stations for these polling districts remain unchanged.

There are no known issues in terms of accessibility, availability and facilities with any of these polling stations within these polling districts, which have previously been used successfully in the past.

I consider that the polling districts and places for the March West and Benwick ward to be appropriate.

PARSON DROVE & WISBECH ST MARY WARD

Number of Polling Districts	Six
Number of Polling Places	Six

Notes	Planned Developments?					
	• PDW1 – 10	• PDW4 − 4				
	• PDW2 - 23	• PDW5 − 0				
	• PDW3 - 6	• PDW6 - 20				

Polling	Elec	torate	No	of AV			Disabled
District	Current	2028 Estimate	Current	2028 Estimate	Current Polling Place	Proposed Polling Place	Access?
PDW1	1145	1205	185	193	Parson Drove Village Hall, Main Road Or if that polling place is unavailable Parson Drove Pavilion, Main Road	No Change.	Yes
PDW2	1356	1446	245	260	Wisbech St Mary Sports and Community Centre, Beechings Close Or if that polling place is unavailable Wisbech St Mary Academy, Church Road	No Change	Yes
PDW3	780	820	148	156	Murrow Village Hall, Murrow Bank Or if that polling place is unavailable Murrow Methodist Church, Front Road	No Change	Yes
PDW4	718	748	153	157	Play 2 Day, The Old Station Yard, Gull Road Or if that polling place is unavailable The Oliver Twist, High Road	No Change	Yes
PDW5	72	72	14	14	Thorney Toll Village Hall, Main Road Or if that polling place is unavailable a mobile polling station in the polling district	No Change	Yes
PDW6	1032	1102	206	220	Gorefield Community Hall, Wolf Lane Or if that polling place is unavailable Gorefield Village Hall, Gote Lane	No Change	Yes

Returning Officer's Representations
It is proposed that the polling stations for these polling districts remain unchanged.

There are no known issues in terms of accessibility, availability and facilities with any of these polling stations within these polling districts, which have previously been used successfully in the past.

I consider that the polling districts and places for the Parson Drove and Wisbech St Mary ward to be appropriate.

WHITTLESEY EAST AND VILLAGES WARD

	Proposed
Number of Polling Districts	Four
Number of Polling Places	Four

N.I. 1	DI ID I (O
Notes	Planned Developments?
	 WHE1 − 0
	 WHE2 − 5
	 WHE3 − 4
	• WHE4 - 71

Polling	Elec	torate	No	of AV			Disabled
District	Current	2028 Estimate	Current	2028 Estimate	Current Polling Place	Proposed Polling Place	Access?
WHE1	1383	1493	263	284	Straw Bear PH, Drybread Road Or if that polling place is unavailable Alderman Jacobs School, Drybread Road	No Change	Yes
WHE2	1427	1542	218	231	Straw Bear PH, Drybread Road Or if that polling place is unavailable Alderman Jacobs School, Drybread Road	Alderman Jacob School, Drybread Road Or if that polling place is unavailable a mobile polling station at Alderman Jacobs School	Yes
WHE3	634	704	117	127	Eastrea Centre, Roman Gardens Or if that polling place is unavailable The Nags Head PH, Eastrea Road	Alternative polling station to be a mobile polling station at the Eastrea Centre, Roman Gardens	Yes
WHE4	1546	1776	232	262	Coates Public Hall, 1 The Fold Or if that polling place is unavailable Coates Primary School, The Fold	Merger of WHE5 Turves with WHE4 Coates	Yes

Returning Officer's Representations

In relation to WHE2, the Straw Bear PH is unable to accommodate a dual polling station as it wishes to remain open whilst polling activity is being undertaken in the venue. For the Elections in 2023, the Alderman Jacobs School was used as The Representation of the People Act 1983 places a duty on schools to provide a Polling Station venue if the Returning Officer deems it suitable. However, the room provided to us by the school was only adequate and we received a lot of feedback about the distance for electors to access the room, especially for the disabled, lack of facilities for staff and poor outside lighting to the room when it was dark. We have no option to use the Alderman Jacob School as there is no other venue currently suitable, however, once the access is improved for the Whittlesey Football Club this could be used, but we need to continue the use of the Alderman Jacobs School for the time being but will ask the school for a more accessible room for electors.

In relation to WHE3, the Nags Head PH, Eastrea Road is no longer open for business so it is proposed to change the alternative polling station to a mobile at the Eastrea Centre, Roman Gardens.

In relation to WHE4, it is proposed to merge Turves with Coates as for the past few elections The Three Horseshoes Inn, March Road, Turves has not been available to use for various reasons and there has had to be a mobile in the car park, which the owners have allowed us to utilize reluctantly. However, the goodwill of the owners cannot be relied upon and part of the car park is being built on and the space available is constrained. There are no other alternative venues or facilities within Turves for a Polling Station so there is no other option but to merge this polling district to the polling district which has the nearest polling station.

I propose that the polling districts and places for Whittlesey East and Villages be as follows:

WHE1 - no change

WHE2 - Alderman Jacobs School, Drybread Road

WHE3 – no change but the alternative to be a mobile polling station

WHE4 – incorporation of WHE5 (Turves) with this polling district with the polling place being Coates Village Hall, The Fold.

WHITTLESEY LATTERSEY WARD

	Proposed
Number of Polling Districts	One
Number of Polling Places	One

Notes	Planned Developments?
	WHL – 0

Polling District	Elec	torate	No of AV		Current Polling Place	Proposed Polling Place	Disabled Access?
Biotiliot	Current	2028	Current	2028			7.00000.
		Estimate		Estimate			
WHL	1266	1426	235	271	Quinion Close Residents Community Room Or if that polling place is unavailable New Road Primary School, New Road	No Change	Yes

Returning Officer's Representations

It is proposed that the polling station for this polling district remains unchanged, although we did receive some negative comments from residents whose properties lie within Whittlesey South polling district but have to pass Quinion Close to vote at another polling place.

There are no known issues in terms of accessibility, availability and facilities with this polling station within this polling district, which has previously been used successfully in the past.

I consider that the polling district and place for the Whittlesey Lattersey ward to be appropriate.

WHITTLESEY NORTH WEST WARD

	Proposed
Number of Polling Districts	Two
Number of Polling Places	One

Notes	Planned Developments?
	 WHNW1 − 6
	• WHNW2 - 30

Polling	Elec	torate	No	of AV			Disabled
District	Current	2028 Estimate	Current	2028 Estimate	Current Polling Place	Proposed Polling Place	Access?
WHNW1	1755	400	1795	413	Whittlesey Baptist Church Or if that polling place is unavailable lvy Leaf Club, Gracious Street	St Johns Ambulance HQ, Plough Road Or if that polling place is unavailable a mobile polling station in the polling district	Yes
WHNW2	1949	334	2024	344	St Johns Ambulance HQ, Plough Road Or if that polling place is unavailable lvy Leaf Club, Gracious Street	Alternative to be a mobile polling station in the polling district	Yes

Returning Officer's Representations

In relation to WHNW1, Whittlesey Baptist Church has previously been used and whilst it is happy to accommodate us it cannot be to the detriment of or displacement of the Church's groups and activities that take place in a building during the week and on the normal polling day of a Thursday. There is a possibility that the car park area can be used at the Whittlesey Baptist Church for a mobile polling station.

The lvy Leaf has also ceased business and is up for sale, it is not known what the future is for this premises and whether it could be utilized in the future or if the car park could be utilized for a mobile polling station.

It is proposed that the St Johns Ambulance HQ becomes a dual polling station for both polling districts as there are no known issues in terms of accessibility, availability and facilities with this polling station.

I consider the polling districts to be appropriate and propose that the polling place for both polling districts in the Whittlesey North West Ward should be St Johns Ambulance HQ, Plough Road, with the alternative to be a mobile polling station in the polling district.

WHITTLESEY SOUTH WARD

	Proposed
Number of Polling Districts	Three
Number of Polling Places	Three

Notes	Planned Developments?
	• WHS1 - 22
	• WHS2 - 3
	• WHS3 - 0

Polling	Electo	orate	No	of AV	Current Polling Place	Proposed Polling Place	Disabled
District	Current	2028 Estimate	Current	2028 Estimate		Proposed Polling Place	Access?
WHS1	1714	1784	397	410	St Andrews Parish Hall, Parkinson Lane Or if that polling place is unavailable Whittlesey Library, Market Street	No Change	Yes
WHS2	1583	1623	305	308	Manor Leisure Centre, Station Road Or if that polling place is unavailable CCC Youth, Child and Family Centre, Scaldgate	No Change	Yes
WHS3	289	294	67	68	Pondersbridge Village Hall, Oilmills Road Or if that polling place is unavailable a mobile polling station in the polling district	No Change	Yes

Returning Officer's Representations

It is proposed that the polling stations for these polling districts remain unchanged.

There are no known issues in terms of accessibility, availability and facilities with any of these polling stations within these polling districts, which have previously been used successfully in the past.

I consider that the polling districts and places for the Whittlesey South ward to be appropriate.

WISBECH NORTH WARD

Number of Polling Districts	One
Number of Polling Places	One

Notes	Planned Developments?
	• WN - 3

Polling	Elec	torate	No	of AV			Disabled
District	Current	2028 Estimate	Current	2028 Estimate	Current Polling Place	Proposed Polling Place	Access?
WN	1910	2000	280	300	The Oasis Village Centre, St Michaels Avenue Or if that polling place is unavailable a mobile polling station at The Oasis Village Centre, St Michaels Avenue	No Change	Yes

Returning Officer's Representations

It is proposed that the polling station for this polling district remains unchanged.

There are no known issues in terms of accessibility, availability and facilities with this polling station within this polling district, which has previously been used successfully in the past.

I consider that the polling district and place for the Wisbech North ward to be appropriate.

WISBECH RIVERSIDE WARD

	Proposed
Number of Polling Districts	Four
Number of Polling Places	Three

Notes	Planned Developments?
	• WR1 – 0
	• WR2 – 0
	• WR3 – 77
	• WR4 - 24

Polling	Elec	torate	No	of AV			Disabled
District	Current	2028 Estimate	Current	2028 Estimate	Current Polling Place	Proposed Polling Place	Access?
WR1	302	317	61	63	Robert Hall Centre, Lynn Road Or if that polling place is unavailable a dual station at The Boathouse, Harbour Square	No Change	Yes
WR2	307	322	55	58	Robert Hall Centre, Lynn Road Or if that polling place is unavailable a dual station at The Boathouse, Harbour Square	No Change	Yes
WR3	1930	2180	292	327	The Boathouse, Harbour Square Or if that polling place is unavailable a dual station at Robert Hall Centre, Lynn Road	No Change	Yes
WR4	1008	1093	202	219	Wisbech Cricket and Hockey Club Or if that polling place is unavailable Wisbech Rugby Club, Chapel Lane	No Change	Yes, with ramp

Returning Officer's Representations

It is proposed that the polling stations for this polling district remain unchanged.

In relation to WR4, Wisbech Cricket and Hockey Club is due to be refurbished during 2024 and once started will take 12 months to complete. It is not known when this work will exactly commence but the club does have the intention to have temporary buildings in situ throughout the duration of the build, which may be suitable for Polling Station use but it is not known until the building is in place and has been inspected. It is, therefore, recommended to keep the Polling Place the same and if the club or temporary building is not suitable revert to the use of the alternative polling place, which is Wisbech Rugby Club, Chapel Lane.

There are no known issues in terms of accessibility, availability and facilities with the polling stations within this polling district, which have previously been used successfully in the past.

I consider that the polling district and place for the Wisbech Riverside ward to be appropriate.

WISBECH SOUTH WARD

	Proposed
Number of Polling Districts	Three
Number of Polling Places	Three

Notes	Planned Developments?
	• WS1 – 10
	• WS2 – 104
	• WS3 - 105

Polling	Elec	torate	No	of AV	Current Polling Place		Disabled
District	Current	2028 Estimate	Current	2028 Estimate		Proposed Polling Place	Access?
WS1	1722	1807	321	343	College of West Anglia Isle Campus, Ramnoth Road Or if that polling place is unavailable Salvation Army Centre, John Thompson Road	No Change	Yes
WS2	1976	2206	401	441	Awdry House, Ramnoth Road Or if that polling place is unavailable Thomas Clarkson Academy, Corporation Road	No Change	Yes
WS3	1696	1851	367	407	Wisbech St Raphael Disabled Club, Love Lane Or if that polling place is unavailable Queen Mary Centre, Queens Road	No Change	Yes

Returning Officer's Representations

It is proposed that the polling stations for this polling district remains unchanged.

There are no known issues in terms of accessibility, availability and facilities with these polling stations within this polling district, which have previously been used successfully in the past.

I consider that the polling district and place for the Wisbech South ward to be appropriate.

WISBECH WALSOKEN AND WATERLEES

	Proposed
Number of Polling Districts	Three
Number of Polling Places	Three

Notes	Planned Developments?
	• WWW1 – 1
	• WWW2 – 153
	• WWW3 - 220

Polling	Electorate		No of AV		Current Polling Place	Proposed Polling Place	Disabled
District	Current	2028	Current	2028			Access?
		Estimate		Estimate			
WWW1	1824	1919	331	345	The Oasis Village Centre, St Michaels Avenue Or if that polling place is unavailable a mobile station at the Oasis Village Centre	No Change	Yes
WWW2	1552	1847	254	296	Walsoken Village Hall, Kirkgate Street Or if that polling place is unavailable The Black Bear PH, Old Lynn Road	No Change	Yes
WWW3	1736	2116	398	487	Meadowgate Academy, Meadowgate Lane Or if the polling place is unavailable another room or mobile polling station in the polling district	No Change	Yes

Returning Officer's Representations

It is proposed that the polling stations for this polling district remain unchanged.

Since 2014, Meadowgate Academy has been used as the polling place for WWW3, which has raised issues due to child safety and protection and some electors have commented that they would prefer to vote at the old polling place for this polling district which was Walsoken Village Hall. The school hall, café and bungalow building have all been used with varying degrees of success as a polling station in the past, all have been adequate but there is no parking available on site, which can cause issues, especially for disabled. However, The Representation of the People Act 1983 places a duty on schools, including Academies, to provide a polling station venue if the Returning Officer deems it suitable and this is the only suitable premises within the polling district that can be used as a polling station.

There are no known issues in terms of accessibility, availability and facilities with these polling stations within this polling district, which have previously been used successfully in the past.

consider that the polling district and place for the Wisbech Walsoken and Waterlees ward to be appropriate.							

Summary of Recommendations

It is recommended that no change be made to the polling districts and polling places for the following wards:

Chatteris North and Manea

Chatteris South

Doddington and Wimblington (DW1 Doddington)

Elm and Christchurch

Leverington and Wisbech Rural

March East

March North

March West and Benwick

Parson Drove and Wisbech St Mary

Whittlesey East and Villages (WHE1)

Whittlesey Lattersey

Whittlesey South

Wisbech North

Wisbech Riverside

Wisbech South

Wisbech Walsoken and Waterlees

It is recommended that changes be made to the polling districts and/or polling places for the following wards on the basis set out below:

DW2	Merger of polling district DW3 (Stonea) with DW2 (Wimblington)				
LWR1	1 Alternative polling place to be Wisbech Rugby Club, Chapel Lane				
MS1	Slight alteration to polling district due to the proposed growth in March South Ward				
MS2	Alteration to polling district due to proposed growth in the polling district				
MS3	Creation of new polling district due to proposed growth in the former MS2 polling district				
WHE2	Polling place to be Alderman Jacobs School, Drybread Road, with the alternative to be a mobile polling station at Alderman				
VVIIEZ	Jacobs School				
WHE3	Alternative polling place to be a mobile polling station at The Eastrea Centre, Roman Gardens				
WHE4	Merger of polling district WHE5 (Turves) with WHE4 (Coates)				
WHNW1	Polling place to be St Johns Ambulance HQ, Plough Road, with the alternative being a mobile polling station in the polling				
AALIIAAA I	district				
WHNW2	Alternative polling place to be a mobile polling station in the polling district.				