

# Council Meeting

2 November 2022

**Time** 5.45 pm **Public Meeting?** YES **Type of meeting** Full Council

**Venue** Council Chamber - Civic Centre, St Peter's Square, Wolverhampton WV1 1SH

**Membership** (Quorum for this meeting is 15 Councillors)

**Mayor** Cllr Sandra Samuels OBE (Lab)

**Deputy Mayor** Cllr Dr Michael Hardacre (Lab)

## Labour

Cllr Obaida Ahmed  
Cllr Qaiser Azeem  
Cllr Mary Bateman  
Cllr Philip Bateman MBE  
Cllr Olivia Birch  
Cllr Dr Paul John Birch J.P.  
Cllr Greg Brackenridge  
Cllr Ian Brookfield  
Cllr Paula Brookfield  
Cllr Chris Burden  
Cllr Craig Collingswood  
Cllr Lovinyer Daley  
Cllr Claire Darke  
Cllr Jasbinder Dehar

Cllr Steve Evans  
Cllr Val Evans  
Cllr Bhupinder Gakhal  
Cllr Celia Hibbert  
Cllr Carol Hyatt  
Cllr Jasbir Jaspal  
Cllr Jaspreet Jaspal  
Cllr Milkinderpal Jaspal  
Cllr Rashpal Kaur  
Cllr Rupinderjit Kaur  
Cllr Linda Leach  
Cllr Asha Mattu  
Cllr Barbara McGarrity QN  
Cllr Louise Miles

Cllr Beverley Momenabadi  
Cllr Lynne Moran  
Cllr Anwen Muston  
Cllr Phil Page  
Cllr Rita Potter  
Cllr John Reynolds  
Cllr Susan Roberts MBE  
Cllr Zee Russell  
Cllr Stephen Simkins  
Cllr Clare Simm  
Cllr Tersaim Singh  
Cllr Paul Sweet  
Cllr Jacqueline Sweetman  
Cllr Gillian Wildman

## Conservative

Cllr Paul Appleby  
Cllr Simon Bennett  
Cllr Adam Collinge  
Cllr Jonathan Crofts  
Cllr Wendy Dalton  
Cllr Christopher Haynes  
Cllr Stephanie Haynes  
Cllr Sohail Khan  
Cllr Andrew McNeil  
Cllr Andrew Randle  
Cllr Mak Singh  
Cllr Paul Singh  
Cllr Udey Singh  
Cllr Wendy Thompson  
Cllr Ellis Turrell  
Cllr Jonathan Yardley

## Information for the Public

If you have any queries about this meeting, please contact the democratic support team:

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# Agenda

*Item No.*     *Title*

## MEETING BUSINESS ITEMS

- 1            **Apologies for absence**
- 2            **Declarations of interest**
- 3            **Minutes of previous meeting** (Pages 5 - 16)  
[To receive minutes of the previous extraordinary and ordinary meeting held on 20 July 2022]
- 4            **Communications**  
[To receive the Mayor's announcements]

## DECISION ITEMS

- 5            **Report of Leader of the Council**  
[To receive a report from the Leader of the Council]
- 6            **Wolverhampton's Youth Justice Plan 2022-2023** (Pages 17 - 68)  
[To approve Wolverhampton's Youth Justice Plan 2022-2023]
- 7            **Corporate Code of Governance** (Pages 69 - 92)  
[To approve the Corporate Code of Governance]
- 8            **Audit and Risk Committee Annual Report 2021-2022** (Pages 93 - 116)  
[To approve the Audit and Risk Committee Annual Report 2021-2022]
- 9            **Final Polling District and Polling Place Proposals** (Pages 117 - 258)  
[To consider the final proposals for the polling district and polling place scheme for 2023]
- 10           **In Year Appointments for the 2022-2023 Municipal Year**  
[To receive a verbal update on In Year Appointments for the 2022-2023 Municipal Year]
- 11           **Key Decisions made under Decision Made Under Special Urgency Provisions**  
(Pages 259 - 260)  
[To receive a report on Key Decisions made under Decision Made Under Special Urgency Provisions]
- 12           **Written Questions by Councillors - July Meeting** (Pages 261 - 262)  
[That the Cabinet Members respond to questions received which were deferred from the July meeting]

- 13      **Written Questions by Councillors - September Meeting** (Pages 263 - 264)  
[That the Executive Members respond to questions received for the postponed September meeting]
- 14      **Written Questions by Councillors** (Pages 265 - 266)  
[That the Executive Members respond to questions received]
- 15      **Motions on Notice - September Meeting** (Pages 267 - 268)  
[That Council consider the motion received for the postponed September Council meeting]
- 16      **Motions on Notice** (Pages 269 - 270)  
[That Council consider the motion received by Councillor Ian Brookfield]

<b>CITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON COUNCIL</b>	<b>Extraordinary Meeting of the Council</b> <b>Minutes - 20 July 2022</b>
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## Attendance

**Mayor** Cllr Sandra Samuels OBE (Lab)  
**Deputy Mayor** Cllr Dr Michael Hardacre (Lab)

### Labour

Cllr Obaida Ahmed  
Cllr Qaiser Azeem  
Cllr Mary Bateman  
Cllr Philip Bateman MBE  
Cllr Greg Brackenridge  
Cllr Ian Brookfield  
Cllr Paula Brookfield  
Cllr Chris Burden  
Cllr Craig Collingswood  
Cllr Lovinyer Daley  
Cllr Claire Darke  
Cllr Jasbinder Dehar  
Cllr Steve Evans

Cllr Val Evans  
Cllr Bhupinder Gakhal  
Cllr Celia Hibbert  
Cllr Jasbir Jaspal  
Cllr Jaspreet Jaspal  
Cllr Milkinderpal Jaspal  
Cllr Rashpal Kaur  
Cllr Linda Leach  
Cllr Asha Mattu  
Cllr Barbara McGarrity QN  
Cllr Louise Miles  
Cllr Beverley Momenabadi  
Cllr Lynne Moran

Cllr Anwen Muston  
Cllr Phil Page  
Cllr Rita Potter  
Cllr John Reynolds  
Cllr Susan Roberts MBE  
Cllr Zee Russell  
Cllr Stephen Simkins  
Cllr Clare Simm  
Cllr Tersaim Singh  
Cllr Paul Sweet  
Cllr Jacqueline Sweetman  
Cllr Gillian Wildman

### Conservative

Cllr Simon Bennett  
Cllr Jonathan Crofts  
Cllr Wendy Dalton  
Cllr Christopher Haynes  
Cllr Stephanie Haynes  
Cllr Sohail Khan  
Cllr Andrew McNeil

Cllr Mak Singh  
Cllr Paul Singh  
Cllr Udey Singh  
Cllr Wendy Thompson  
Cllr Ellis Turrell  
Cllr Jonathan Yardley

### Employees

Mark Taylor  
David Pattison  
John Denley  
Richard Lawrence  
Claire Nye  
Alison Hinds

Deputy Chief Executive  
Chief Operating Officer  
Director of Public Health  
Director of Regeneration  
Director of Finance  
Deputy Director of Children's Social Care

*Item No.*     *Title*

**1            Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Paul Appleby, Councillor Olivia Birch, Councillor Paul Birch, Councillor Adam Collinge, Councillor Carol Hyatt and Councillor Andy Randle.

**2            Declarations of interest**

There were no declarations of interest made.

**3            Conferring the Title of Honorary Alderman**

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Ian Brookfield presented the report on Conferring the Title of Honorary Alderman. He requested that pursuant to the powers contained in Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972, the Council confer the title of Honorary Alderman to former Councillor Keith Inston.

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Ian Brookfield added Mr Inston had a total of 24 years' distinguished service. He had served the residents of East Park Ward, but also held many important positions within the Council impacting on the lives of the citizens of our whole City.

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Ian Brookfield proposed the recommendation, Councillor Wendy Thompson seconded the recommendation. They paid tribute to the contribution of former Councillor Keith Inston.

Resolved:

That the title of Honorary Alderman be conferred on former Councillor Keith Inston.

## Attendance

**Mayor** Cllr Sandra Samuels OBE (Lab)  
**Deputy Mayor** Cllr Dr Michael Hardacre (Lab)

## Labour

Cllr Obaida Ahmed	Cllr Val Evans	Cllr Anwen Muston
Cllr Qaiser Azeem	Cllr Bhupinder Gakhal	Cllr Phil Page
Cllr Mary Bateman	Cllr Celia Hibbert	Cllr Rita Potter
Cllr Philip Bateman MBE	Cllr Jasbir Jaspal	Cllr John Reynolds
Cllr Greg Brackenridge	Cllr Jaspreet Jaspal	Cllr Susan Roberts MBE
Cllr Ian Brookfield	Cllr Milkinderpal Jaspal	Cllr Zee Russell
Cllr Paula Brookfield	Cllr Rashpal Kaur	Cllr Stephen Simkins
Cllr Chris Burden	Cllr Linda Leach	Cllr Clare Simm
Cllr Craig Collingswood	Cllr Asha Mattu	Cllr Tersaim Singh
Cllr Lovinyer Daley	Cllr Barbara McGarrity QN	Cllr Paul Sweet
Cllr Claire Darke	Cllr Louise Miles	Cllr Jacqueline Sweetman
Cllr Jasbinder Dehar	Cllr Beverley Momenabadi	Cllr Gillian Wildman
Cllr Steve Evans	Cllr Lynne Moran	

## Conservative

Cllr Simon Bennett	Cllr Mak Singh
Cllr Jonathan Crofts	Cllr Paul Singh
Cllr Wendy Dalton	Cllr Udey Singh
Cllr Christopher Haynes	Cllr Wendy Thompson
Cllr Stephanie Haynes	Cllr Ellis Turrell
Cllr Sohail Khan	Cllr Jonathan Yardley
Cllr Andrew McNeil	

## Employees

Mark Taylor	Deputy Chief Executive
David Pattison	Chief Operating Officer
John Denley	Director of Public Health
Richard Lawrence	Director of Regeneration
Claire Nye	Director of Finance
Alison Hinds	Deputy Director of Children's Social Care

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The proceedings opened with Prayers

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*Item No. Title*

**1 Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Paul Appleby, Councillor Olivia Birch, Councillor Paul Birch, Councillor Adam Collinge, Councillor Carol Hyatt and Councillor Andy Randle.

**2 Declarations of interest**

Councillor Bhupinder Gakhel declared a pecuniary interest in agenda item 12, Motions on Notice; West Midlands Police – Data.

**3 Minutes of previous meeting**

The Mayor proposed, the Deputy Mayor seconded, and it was resolved:

That the minutes of the previous meeting, held on 18 May 2022, be agreed as a correct record and signed accordingly by the Mayor.

**4 Communications**

**1. Death of Honorary Alderman Paddy Bradley**

The Mayor was saddened to announce the death of Honorary Alderman Paddy Bradley, who passed away on 23 June 2022, at the age of 86 years. She had served as a councillor for almost 40 years. She had been Deputy Mayor and was appointed an Honorary Alderman in September 2012.

The Mayor passed on condolences to her family and friends.

The Mayor was also saddened to announce the deaths of:

- Dame Deborah James who recently died after a long and very well documented battle with cancer.
- Mary Garner, a stalwart of Blakenhall politics and mentor to the Mayor in the early days.
- Reverend Eddie Brooks, a former teacher in the city who had taught some of the councillors.

The Council stood in silent tribute to the late Honorary Alderman Paddy Bradley, Dame Deborah James, Mary Garner and the Rev Eddie Brooks.

**2. Jubilee Portrait Competition Afternoon Tea With the Mayor**

The Mayor had the pleasure of hosting an afternoon tea at the Art Gallery celebrating the winners of the Mayoral Platinum Jubilee Portrait Competition. Hundreds of entries had been received from people of all ages across the City, the competition showcased the incredible talent in Wolverhampton. The Mayor thanked all those that entered and made the afternoon such a great celebration.



### **3. Crich Pilgrimage**

The Mayor reported on the first Sunday in July, the Mayor had the honour of attending the annual pilgrimage to the Mercian Regimental memorial in Crich, Derbyshire. It was a moving service where those servicemen and servicewomen who died in battle were remembered. The Consort and Mayor were honoured to represent the City alongside other Mayors, dignitaries, soldiers and veterans from the Mercian Regiment from across the Midlands and Cheshire at this year's event.

### **4. National Windrush Day and Flag Raising Ceremony**

The Mayor reported that on Wednesday 22 June, she was proud as our city's first ever African Caribbean Mayor, to join members of the community to raise the Windrush Day flag and host a reception in the City Suite. The day was close to the Mayors' heart, as a child of the Windrush generation. The day celebrated and thanked the Windrush community in the City for their enormous contribution after the Second World War.

### **5. 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Jamaican Independence**

The Mayor reported she would be raising the Jamaican flag on 5 August at 11am to celebrate the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Jamaican Independence and encouraged others to also attend.

### **6. BITC Work Inclusion**

The Mayor reported she attended and spoke at the Business in the Community workplace inclusion event held in the city suite which was organised by the Equality Diversity and Inclusion Team. National business leaders came to share best practice around being inclusive employers.

### **7. Visit to Wolverhampton- Delegation of African Academics**

The Mayor reported she was invited to open and speak at the second Forum for Innovation in African Universities which was hosted by the University of Wolverhampton on Thursday 7 July. Distinguished speakers from across the African continent and the world were in attendance with a focus on Africa's educational resilience post-Covid. The following day, the Mayor hosted many of the delegates in the City Suite for a Civic Lunch.

### **8. Refugee Week**

The Mayor reported that it was Refugee Week at the end of June. A poem written by Hejar Paar from the Refugee and Migrant Centre, which had been described as a "powerful piece of writing" calling for greater freedoms in the world, had recently been shared on the national Refugee Week website and was also posted on the council's Twitter page @WolvesCouncil.

### **9. Queens Baton Relay and Commonwealth Games**

The Mayor was delighted to report she had been granted the honour to attend the opening and closing ceremonies of the Commonwealth Games and the Queen's Baton Relay when it visits our city on Sunday 24 July as well as the cycling time trial event which starts and finishes in West Park on Thursday 4 August. These events would bring the eyes of the world onto our city, there would be plenty of ways for people to get involved in both events, including a festival site in old Market Square on the day of the race, which would be fun for all the family.

The Mayor added that Councillor Simon Bennett would be at the Commonwealth Games as a Technology Team Member working with Longines, the official timing party of the Games. She wished him well in this important role.

**5 Report of Leader of the Council**

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Ian Brookfield provided Council with an update on 'UK Shared Prosperity Fund'.

The Leader of the Opposition Group, Councillor Wendy Thompson responded to the update.

**6 Capital Budget Outturn 2021-2022 including Quarter One Capital Budget Monitoring 2022-2023**

The Cabinet Member for Resources and Digital City, Councillor Obaida Ahmed, presented a report on Capital Budget Outturn 2021-2022 including Quarter One Capital Budget Monitoring 2022-2023.

The report provided an update on the outturn position for 2021-2022 and update on the 2022-2023 financial performance of the General Fund and HRA capital programmes whilst also providing a revised forecast for 2022-2023 to 2026-2027, as at quarter one of 2022-2023.

The report recommended revisions to the current approved capital programmes covering the period 2022-2023 to 2026-2027. The capital programme underpins the Our City, Our Plan.

The Cabinet Member for Resources and Digital City, Councillor Obaida Ahmed proposed the recommendation and the Leader of the Council, Councillor Ian Brookfield seconded the recommendation.

The report was debated by Council. Councillor Obaida Ahmed replied to the debate.

Resolved:

That the revised, medium term General Fund capital programme of £367.8 million, a net increase of £152,000 from the previously approved programme, and the change in associated resources be approved.

**7 Treasury Management - Annual Report 2021-2022 and Activity Monitoring Quarter One 2022-2023**

The Cabinet Member for Resources and Digital City, Councillor Obaida Ahmed, presented a report on Treasury Management - Annual Report 2021-2022 and Activity Monitoring Quarter One 2022-2023.

The report sets out the results of treasury management activities carried out in 2021-2022, together with performance against the Prudential Indicators previously approved by Council. It also provides a monitoring and progress report on treasury

management activity for the first quarter of 2022-2023, in line with the Prudential Indicators approved by Council in March 2022.

The Cabinet Member for Resources and Digital City, Councillor Obaida Ahmed proposed the recommendations and the Leader of the Council, Councillor Ian Brookfield seconded the recommendations.

The report was debated by Council. Councillor Obaida Ahmed replied to the debate.

Resolved:

1. That it be noted, the Council operated within the overall approved Prudential and Treasury Management Indicators, and also with the requirements set out in the Council's Treasury Management Policy Statement during 2021-2022.
2. That it be noted, revenue underspends of £1.0 million for the General Fund and £738,000 for the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) were generated from treasury management activities in 2021-2022.
3. That it be noted, the General Fund and HRA treasury management activities for 2022-2023 were currently forecast to be within budget. This would continue to be monitored, and updates would be provided in future reports.

## 8 **Select Committee - The Wolverhampton Pound**

The Chair of the Select Committee, Councillor Susan Roberts presented the Select Committee - The Wolverhampton Pound - Procurement, Contract Management and Commissioning report.

A trial Select Committee in relation to The Wolverhampton Pound, was commenced in October 2021. The Council sought input from expert witnesses both internal and external to gather feedback and help shape the recommendations. The Select Committee comprised a cross-party group of councillors working together to gather information and evidence in relation to an agreed line of inquiry.

Councillor Susan Roberts was honoured to chair this Select Committee and thanked all of the organisations and groups who gave up their time to provide us with the information contained within this report. The Select Committee heard evidence from CLES, partner organisations, Voluntary and Community sector representatives, local businesses, service providers and internal Council departments.

The report provides a summary of the evidence sessions and a set of recommendations which the Committee consider important for the implementation and success of the Wolverhampton Pound. The action plan would be monitored by the Scrutiny Board.

The Chair of the Select Committee, Councillor Susan Roberts proposed the recommendation and Councillor Zee Russell seconded the recommendation.

The report was debated by Council. Councillor Susan Roberts replied to the debate.  
Resolved:

That the recommendations in the Wolverhampton Pound Select Committee Action Plan be endorsed.

9 **Inspection of Local Authority Children's Services, City of Wolverhampton Council**

The Cabinet Member for Children and Young People, Councillor Beverley Momenabadi, presented a report on Inspection of Local Authority Children's Services, City of Wolverhampton Council. The report provided an update on the outcome of the recent Ofsted inspection of Children's Services and details actions required for improvement.

The report detailed the outcome of the inspection of Children's Service, with overall effectiveness being graded as good with outstanding and innovative areas of practice. It provided strong external assurance that children and young people in the city were being safeguarded and cared for.

The Cabinet Member for Children and Young People, Councillor Beverley Momenabadi placed on record thanks to all the employees who worked in Children's Services.

The Cabinet Member for Children and Young People, Councillor Beverley Momenabadi proposed the recommendation and the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills, Councillor Chris Burden seconded the recommendation.

The report was debated by Council. Councillor Beverley Momenabadi replied to the debate.

Resolved:

That the 'Good' overall judgement from the recent Ofsted Inspection of Children's Services be celebrated and our continued excellent position in the West Midlands and the country be noted.

10 **Changes to the Constitution**

The Chair of Governance and Ethics Committee, Councillor John Reynolds, presented a report on Constitution Review for approval.

The report recommended that the Full Council Procedure Rules be amended, the purpose of this was to include questions by members of the public and time limits for certain items on the agenda and the report detailed the rationale for making these changes.

The Chair of Governance and Ethics Committee, Councillor John Reynolds, proposed the recommendations and the Cabinet Member for Governance and Equalities Councillor Paula Brookfield seconded the recommendations.

The report was debated by Council. Councillor John Reynolds replied to the debate.

Resolved:

1. That the amendments to the Constitution be approved.
2. That the Monitoring Officer be authorised to implement the changes.

11 **In Year Appointments for the 2022-2023 Municipal Year**

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Ian Brookfield presented the report In Year Appointments for the 2022-2023 Municipal Year.

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Ian Brookfield proposed the recommendations and Deputy Leader, Inclusive City Economy, Councillor Stephen Simkins seconded the recommendations.

Resolved:

1. That the removal of Councillor Paul Appleby from the Statutory Licensing Committee and Regulatory Committee for the remainder of the Municipal year 2022/2023 be approved.
2. That the appointment of Councillor Jonathan Crofts to the Statutory Licensing Committee and Regulatory Committee for the remainder of the Municipal year 2022/2023 be approved.

## 12 **Motions on Notice**

Having declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in the motion on West Midlands Police – Data, Councillor Bhupinder Gakhal left the Council Chamber and took no part in the consideration of this item.

Councillor Phillip Bateman moved the following motion on West Midlands Police – Data:

*“This City Council is concerned and dismayed over the poor public information arrangements that West Midlands Police are currently operating. Police UK, which informs the public upon the actions and performances and local crime and the detection, is still deficient and does not carry West Midlands performance rates.*

*West Midlands Police also do not update their electronic information on the changes in ward cover and the teams performing crime fighting duties in the city’s wards.*

*Added to that, there are no up to date crime level statistics for wards across the city which the public can read, digest and then support. There are concerns across our city that crime is rising and that is compounded by the fact that there are no detection rates or other important statistics on show to benchmark, prove or measure criminal effects on our communities.*

*There is no current up to date public information on police strength by city wards that the public can rely upon. Wulfrunians will be growing away from the police if their requirements to know what is happening in their communities are not heeded, or their need for information on crime and its solutions continue to be ignored.*

*The ‘Thin Blue Line’ still has less police in service in Wolverhampton than it had in 2010, yet our population has soared in that same period. It could*

*appear to some that West Midlands Police are appearing to ignore the public in our city.*

*This City Council therefore calls on West Midlands Police to greatly improve its communications and create better links between elected members and community leaders in the wards they serve.”*

Councillor Phillip Bateman outlined the rationale for the motion. Councillor Greg Brackenridge seconded the motion and outlined the rationale for supporting the motion.

Councillor Philip Bateman outlined the rationale for the motion. Councillor Greg Brackenridge seconded the motion and outlined the rationale for supporting the motion.

The motion was debated by Council.

Resolved: That the motion on West Midlands Police- Data be agreed.

Councillor Simon Bennet moved the motion on Ukraine:

*“In support of Ukraine, Council agrees to explore twinning opportunities with a Ukrainian town or city.”*

Councillor Simon Bennett outlined the rationale for the motion. Councillor Andrew McNeil seconded the motion and outlined the rationale for supporting the motion.

Councillor Ian Brookfield moved an amendment to the motion as follows:

*‘In support of Ukraine, Council agrees to utilise its partners in the European Association for Local Democracy (ALDA), as a way to contact people with feet on the ground in Ukraine, especially Dnipro, as well as our local Ukrainian community and bodies like the Refugee and Migrant Council (RMC) and University. This would enable us to provide a package of co-ordinated support that will offer more than traditional municipal twinning.’*

Councillor Ian Brookfield outlined the rationale for the amended motion. Councillor Stephen Simkins seconded the amended motion and outlined the rationale for supporting the motion.

The motion was debated by Council.

The amended motion was carried.

Resolved: That the amended motion on Ukraine be agreed.

Councillor Ellis Turrell moved the motion Draft Black Country Plan:

*“The long-awaited Brownfield Land Study, commissioned by West Midlands Mayor Andy Street, has been published. Contrary to the claims from the Leader of the Council that “every inch” of brownfield land in the city has been included in the draft Black Country Plan, the Study outlines that there is a*

*significant amount of additional brownfield capacity in Wolverhampton for 4,458 homes. The Study also includes a number of recommendations for local authorities to further evaluate and prioritise existing brownfield sites.*

*Specifically, the Study proposes releasing employment land in the city for the creation of nearly 500 new homes and identifies almost 2,500 new homes from windfall sites. This includes 812 new dwellings in the city centre from converted upper storey floorspace.*

*This Council therefore agrees to:*

- i) Accept and begin implementing the recommendations of the Brownfield Land Study.*
- ii) Immediately include new brownfield and windfall sites in the Black Country Plan through Regulation 18 consultations, where the necessary evidence exists to do so.*
- iii) Retract the Council's original statement that "every inch" of brownfield land in the city has been included in the Black Country Plan."*

Councillor Ellis Turrell outlined the rationale for the motion. Councillor Sohail Khan seconded the motion and outlined the rationale for supporting the motion.

The motion was debated by Council.

Resolved:

That the motion on Draft Black Country Plan be lost.

Councillor Wendy Thompson moved the motion on Fallow Year:

*"Council agrees that following the all-out local elections on 4 May 2023 its preference is for the planned fallow year of 2025 to be brought forward to 2024 and that the Chief Executive, on Council's behalf, writes to the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities to request this."*

Councillor Wendy Thompson outlined the rationale for the motion. Councillor Paula Brookfield seconded the motion and outlined the rationale for supporting the motion.

The motion was debated by Council.

Resolved:

That the motion on Fallow Year be agreed.

### 13 **Written Questions by Councillors**

Resolved:

That written questions by Councillors be deferred to the next meeting.

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<b>CITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON COUNCIL</b>	<b>Meeting of the City Council</b> <b>2 November 2022</b>
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<b>Report title</b>	Wolverhampton's Youth Justice Plan 2022-2023	
<b>Referring body</b>	Cabinet – 6 July 2022	
<b>Councillor to present report</b>	Councillor Beverley Momenabadi	
<b>Wards affected</b>	All Wards	
<b>Cabinet Member with lead responsibility</b>	Councillor Beverley Momenabadi Children and Young People	
<b>Accountable director</b>	Emma Bennett, Executive Director of Families	
<b>Originating service</b>	Youth Offending Team	
<b>Accountable employee</b>	Rachel King	Head of Service
	Tel	07854943254
	Email	<a href="mailto:rachel.king@wolverhampton.gov.uk">rachel.king@wolverhampton.gov.uk</a>
<b>Report has been considered by</b>	Cabinet	6 July 2022

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**Recommendation for decision:**

The Council is recommended to:

1. Approve the adoption of the Youth Justice Plan 2022-2023.

## **1.0 Purpose**

1.1 To approve the adoption of Wolverhampton's Youth Justice Plan 2022-2023.

## **2.0 Background**

2.1 On 6 July 2022 Cabinet considered a report on Wolverhampton's Youth Justice Plan 2022-2023.

2.2 Copies of the report have been supplied to Councillors and can also be accessed online on the Council's website [here](#).

2.3 Cabinet recommended to Council that it approves:

1. The adoption of the Youth Justice Plan 2022-2023.

## **3.0 Financial implications**

3.1 The financial implications are detailed in the Cabinet report of 6 July 2022.

## **4.0 Legal implications**

4.1 The legal implications are detailed in the Cabinet report of 6 July 2022.

## **5.0 Equalities implications**

5.1 The equalities implications are detailed in the Cabinet report of 6 July 2022.

## **6.0 All other implications**

6.1 All other implications are detailed in the Cabinet report of 6 July 2022.

## **7.0 Schedule of background papers**

7.1 Cabinet report of 6 July 2022 – [Wolverhampton's Youth Justice Plan 2022-2023](#).

<b>CITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON COUNCIL</b>	<b>Cabinet</b> <b>6 July 2022</b>
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<b>Report title</b>	Wolverhampton's Youth Justice Plan 2022-2023	
<b>Decision designation</b>	RED	
<b>Cabinet member with lead responsibility</b>	Councillor Beverley Momenabadi Children and Young People	
<b>Key decision</b>	Yes	
<b>In forward plan</b>	Yes	
<b>Wards affected</b>	All Wards	
<b>Accountable Director</b>	Emma Bennett – Executive Director for Families	
<b>Originating service</b>	Youth Offending Team	
<b>Accountable employee</b>	Rachel King	Head of Service
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<b>Report to be/has been considered by</b>	Directorate Leadership Team	16 June 2022
	Strategic Executive Board	21 June 2022

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**Recommendation for decision:**

The Cabinet recommends that Council:

1. Approves the adoption of the Youth Justice Plan 2022-2023.

**Recommendation for noting:**

The Cabinet is asked to note:

1. The specific achievement of the Youth Offending Team during 2021-2022 including a reduction in first time entrants, a reduction in re-offending rates and a reduction in the number of young people receiving a custodial sentence.

## **1.0 Purpose**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to request that Cabinet recommend to Council the approval of the Youth Justice Plan for 2022-2023. This is the plan relating to the work of the Youth Offending Team (YOT) that is overseen by the partnership YOT Management Board (YMB). The work of this plan is regularly reviewed by the YOT Management Board, which comprises of membership from the City of Wolverhampton Council, West Midlands Police, The Royal Wolverhampton Hospital Trust, Recovery Near You (substance misuse service), National Probation Service, Housing, Public Health, Clinical Commissioning Group, Black Country Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust, the Chair of the Black Country Youth Court Bench and the voluntary sector.

## **2.0 Background**

- 2.1 Under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, each Local Authority is required to have in place arrangements for the delivery of Youth Justice services usually via a YOT. Central government provides a grant to support local Youth Justice work via the Youth Justice Board (YJB) which sits within The Ministry of Justice. A condition of the grant is the provision of satisfactory services that are outlined in the required production of an annual Youth Justice Plan. The Youth Justice Plan requires Full Council approval, as detailed in the constitution under the budget and policy framework.
- 2.2 The format for Youth Justice planning is prescribed by the Youth Justice Board and has varied over the years. The attached plan is compliant with current guidance and an action plan based on future priorities and risks to delivery is prepared to drive the work.
- 2.3 This plan has involved significant consultation and planning, with contributions from staff within the YOT, the YOT Management Board and young people. A draft of the plan was submitted to YJB on 30 June 2022, with an option to send an updated version following local sign off by the YOT Management Board and approval from Full Council.
- 2.4 In October 2021, Wolverhampton YOT were inspected by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Prisons (HMIP). This judged the YOT to be good with several areas noting outstanding practice. The plan for 2022-2023 seeks to identify priorities that respond to the HMIP inspection recommendations and the national YJB key performance indicators. There is a clear focus on continuing to reduce the number of first-time entrants (FTE), reducing reoffending and reducing the number of young people who received a custodial sentence.
- 2.5 Specific focus is given to addressing gangs, youth violence and exploitation activity within the city to ensure we are identifying young people at risk and tailoring interventions to take into account the impact of adverse childhood experiences on young people. This priority area of work for the YOT is supported by the citywide Partnership Exploitation Hub, for which the YOT is a key partner. The work of the YOT will assist in developing a better understanding across the region of issues surrounding all forms of exploitation including youth violence.

- 2.6 Draft national guidance around serious violence for responsible authorities was released in May 2021. Whilst this guidance is not yet passed as legislation, Wolverhampton has been proactive in its response. A Violence Prevention group has been established, which includes YOT as a key member, with a focus on mapping current provision, understanding best practice, and undertaking a strategic needs assessment to inform future strategy and delivery.
- 2.7 Partners represented at YMB have also committed to developing a deeper understanding regarding the disproportionality of Black Asian and other Minority Ethnic groups in the youth justice system and to drive forward work and initiatives aimed at addressing this systemically. This will include continued learning and practice development for the team, focusing on trauma informed practice, including neurodiversity; and learning from the HMIP thematic report (October 2021) on the experiences of Black and Mixed Heritage boys in the criminal justice system.
- 2.8 The plan for Wolverhampton YOT will also be aligned to the City of Wolverhampton Council plan priorities. Through a focus on reducing offending behaviour this contributes to ensuring stronger families where children grow up well and achieve, and also creates safer, more cohesive communities.

### **3.0 Progress**

- 3.1 The primary focus of a YOT is to prevent and reduce the offending behaviour of young people aged up to 18. There are three overarching national indicators on which performance is measured; the number of first-time entrants into the youth justice system, the number of young people who reoffend after their first offence and the number of young people who receive a custodial sentence as opposed to a community sentence.
- 3.2 During the last 12 months, Wolverhampton Youth Offending Team (YOT) has continued to be a forward thinking and ambitious organisation, committed to improving outcomes for young people, their victims and creating a safer community.
- 3.3 The recent Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation (HMIP) inspection published in February 2022 found: ... *"an effective service, with strengths apparent across assessment and service delivery for both court and out-of-court disposals. Reviewing was also robust in post-court cases. The YOT has an excellent understanding of what is required to deliver services and interventions to children and families, and work to promote this was evident"*.
- 3.4 These findings and the commitment, creativity and passion of the team have been fundamental to the continuing drive for excellence.
- 3.5 The YMB has played an instrumental role in guiding and scrutinising the YOT's work and priorities in the last 12 months. The continued partnership contribution to the YOT is evident of the genuine local commitment to supporting a multi-agency response to young people at risk or involved in the criminal justice system in Wolverhampton.

- 3.6 During 2021-2022, the YOT has continued to make progress and this is evidenced in performance data.
- 3.7 During 2021-2022, local data shows that the first-time entrant rate for Wolverhampton recorded a 38.6% reduction in young people and a 21.6% reduction in the number of offences committed amongst FTE when compared to the previous year. 2020-2021 recorded 44 young people, reducing to 27 during 2021-2022. YJB available data (October 2020 – September 2021) reflects a reduction of 8.5%, higher than the -5.9% recorded by Wolverhampton's YOT family Group (made up of comparative YOTs). The data available from the YJB precedes the introduction of the DIVERT scheme within Wolverhampton YOT.
- 3.8 The DIVERT scheme and the use of Outcome 22 (deferred prosecution) on the YOT's FTE Data has for quarter 3 in 2021-2022 shown a significant impact. The data shows that FTE comparative rates for Quarter 3 2020-2021 (18 young people) and 2021-2022 (4 young people) reported a reduction of 78%, primarily as a result of the use of Outcome 22. This trend is expected to continue and will have a significant impact on the formal decriminalisation of young people in Wolverhampton.
- 3.9 The nationally reported reoffending data has a two-year time delay. Therefore, in April 2018, Wolverhampton YOT introduced the use of the reoffending live tracker toolkit to provide real time data. The use of the live tracker has provided an opportunity to track the most up to date cohort of young people over a 12-month period, and has ensured that 18 year olds leaving the service continue to be tracked using Police National Computer data (PNC). This has provided encouraging data on the levels of reoffending, with quarter four (January – March 2021) recording an 18.2% overall binary rate, compared to a national rate of 34.2%. Overall reoffence per reoffender was 4.50 and the overall reoffences rate across the cohort was at a rate of 0.82. With the exception of the overall re-offences per reoffender rate, all rates were below both the regional and national performance for reoffending.
- 3.10 Use of the reoffending live tracker is recommended by the YJB for all young people who go through the court system and receive a court disposal. However, in Wolverhampton, there is specific focus on trying to avoid the need for young people to enter the court system. Wherever possible, young people will be dealt with out of court. As a result of this, the YOT has taken a local decision to also use the re-offending live tracker for young people who receive an out of court disposal.
- 3.11 The live tracker data for out of court disposals shows that for quarter four in 2020-2021, the overall binary rate for OOCd was 9.1%, with significantly lower reoffending occurring compared to national rate of 37.90%. Overall re-offences per re-offender for Wolverhampton was 3.00 compared to national 3.30, and the overall reoffences rate across the cohort was 0.27 compared to 1.25 national rate.

- 3.12 It is recognised that some children and young people need to be detained in custody for the protection of themselves and the wider community. The YOT Management Board receives regular reports on custody rates and also seeks assurance that those who are detained in the secure estate are those for whom all other options have been exhausted or their sentence is proportionate to the crime committed.
- 3.13 Based on local data, only two custodial sentences were recorded during the 2021-2022 year; a reduction of four when compared to the previous year, a reduction of 67%. Only four young people were subject to Youth Detention Accommodation (YDA) on remand throughout 2021-2022, this was consistent with the 2020-2021 figures although the collective number of nights on remand was over double in 2021-2022.
- 3.14 Ensuring all young people are engaged in education, employment or training (EET) is a key factor when seeking to reduce the likelihood of involvement in the criminal justice system. In the YOT, education performance is based on the educational engagement of young people at the end of a YOT statutory order. Between 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 there has been a 10% increase in overall EET performance, increasing from 54% to 64%. There has also been a notable increase to 63% from 44% within the over school age cohort. However, there has been a reduction in the engagement rates for school aged children from 70% to 61%
- 3.15 Across the full cohort in 2021-2022, 27 (30.3%) were recorded as young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND); 20 (22.5%) had an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) and 7 (7.87%) recorded SEN Support in school. 15 (75%) of the young people with an EHCP recorded a court disposal. The over-representation of young people with either SEND and EHCP within the YOT cohort was recognised within the YOT HMIP inspection. The inspection team made a recommendation in which it required the YMB to make sure these young people have access to high-quality education and training services that are matched to their needs.
- 3.16 It has been acknowledged that the YOT does not have the commissioning role nor the governance over the provision of services for young people with SEND/EHCPs, however the YMB will be working with the Head of Service for Inclusion and Empowerment and the Head of Skills to advocate and oversee the future provision of services.
- 3.17 The clear focus on education, employment and training aligns with the City's priority around reducing youth unemployment.
- 3.18 Young people were consulted about areas they felt the youth justice plan should be focusing on. The challenge and issue that was strongly emphasised by young people was knife crime. There was a strong view that there is a lack of community-based activities and this results in young people getting into trouble as they are just wandering the streets. Social media was also considered problematic by many young people as they felt it can lead to harassment, exploitation and bullying.

- 3.19 This feedback identifies a continued need to promote Wolverhampton Young Opportunities (Yo!) across the city and the importance of targeted work with more vulnerable groups.
- 3.20 The risk and challenge regarding exploitation, youth violence and gangs is one that is recognised by all partners across the city. In February 2021, CWC launched the Partnership Exploitation Hub. This has enabled a new, innovative approach to co-ordinating the partnership response to these issues. The hub facilitates more timely, effective sharing of information and intelligence, as well as joined-up disruption work. The YOT is represented within the hub.
- 3.21 Alongside the work of the Exploitation Hub, the YOT also co-ordinate a partnership gang's forum on a 6-weekly basis. This is to enable the sharing of information in order to build up a profile across the city of gang activity, to identify any tensions and to ensure individual young people have appropriate support in place.
- 3.22 Importantly, improving the response to all forms of exploitation remains a priority for Wolverhampton Safeguarding Together partnership (WST). Similarly, a Violence Prevention group was established in December 2021 with representation from across the wider partnership, to focus on better understanding local issues, identifying gaps in provision and to explore opportunities for improving partnership working.
- 3.23 The YOT will make a significant contribution to the Violence Prevention group and will continue to implement its response to serious youth violence and exploitation through initiatives like DIVERT and Creating Safety Project. There will continue to be strong risk management and disruption responses to protect young people and communities; and the YOT will ensure interventions around weapons, exploitation and gangs are fit for purpose.
- 3.24 In 2017 David Lammy undertook a review focusing on the discrimination within policing and criminal justice systems in the UK. The review found significant racial bias in the UK justice system. The issue of disproportionality is a key priority for Wolverhampton YOT and the "Black Lives Matter" movement during 2020 brought into sharp focus the continued disproportionality experienced by many Black Asian and other Minority Ethnic groups in the criminal justice system.
- 3.25 This national focus triggered a thematic inspection by HMIP in October 2021 that investigated the experiences of Black and Mixed Heritage boys in the criminal justice system. The key findings and recommendations from this thematic report will assist in shaping the YOT's response to these issues.
- 3.26 During 2021-2022, Wolverhampton YOT has continued to produce a detailed analysis of the experience of Black Asian and other Minority Ethnic groups in Wolverhampton. The findings have continued to identify areas of disproportionality for Black Asian and other Minority Ethnic groups.



- 3.27 The 2011 Census data reported that the split of ethnic groups between 10-17 year olds was split by 39% ethnic minorities and 61% white. Data for 2021-2022 shows that within the YOT cohort, 50% of the cohort were from ethnic minority backgrounds; this represented 1% Asian, 21% Black, 25% mixed heritage and 3% other young people, highlighting the larger disproportionality for black and mixed heritage young people.
- 3.28 The two custody disposals in 2021-2022 both related to young males of black and mixed ethnicity, although it should be noted that custody disposal numbers were low overall.
- 3.29 Police stop and search records for 10-17 year olds in 2021-2022 also shows that there remains an over-representation of young people of black and mixed ethnic groups being subject to stop and search procedures by West Midlands Police when compared to the general population.
- 3.30 The YOT continues to be committed to tackling disproportionality and on promoting a better understanding across the wider youth justice partnership. The DIVERT scheme (deferred prosecution), is one initiative aimed at breaking the cycle of mistrust with the Police and removing the barriers for Black and Mixed Heritage boys accessing pre-court pathways for support.
- 3.31 There will continue to be a focus on disproportionality, with staff receiving cultural competence training to improve the understanding that young people who have experienced racism have had a trauma journey, and through the provision of specialist whole family work for parents of Black and Mixed Heritage boys

#### **4.0 Evaluation of alternative options**

- 4.1 The local authority has a statutory duty to submit an annual youth justice plan relating to their provision of youth offending services. The youth justice plan 2022-2023 has been developed following consultation with partner agencies, staff and young people.

#### **5.0 Reasons for decision**

- 5.1 The local priorities that have been identified for Wolverhampton not only respond to the local areas of need but also represent an alignment with the strategic priorities identified by the YJB and the recommendations from the YOT inspection (October 2021).
- 5.2 The core vision of the YJB as set out in the YJB Strategic Plan 2019-2022 is:  
“A youth justice system that sees children as children, treats them fairly and helps them to build on their strengths so they can make a constructive contribution to society. This will prevent offending and create safer communities with fewer victims.”
- 5.3 The youth justice plan 2022-2023 seeks to achieve this vision and some of the key areas that will be given significant priority include:
- Building upon the work with Children and Young People in Care (CYPIC) to further reduce their risks of criminalisation.

- Improving the educational engagement and outcomes for all young people at the YOT, ensuring young people with SEND/ EHCP have access to high quality provision
- Extending the whole family / carer offer within the service
- Addressing areas of disproportionality and promoting wider partnership engagement to reduce areas of significant disproportionality
- Ensuring YOT staff are appropriately trained and confident in having conversations to understand Black, Asian and other minority ethnic children's experiences
- Improving the quality of contingency planning in all cases, when managing and mitigating a child's risk of harm to others
- Continuing the delivery of the DIVERT scheme to further promote the decriminalisation of young people and divert them from the criminal justice system
- Ensuring the integrated health offer is fully embedded in DIVERT scheme in order to promote the commitment that a child will not enter the criminal justice system as a result of an unmet health need
- Expanding the YOT prevention offer
- Promoting the voice of the victim in both preventative and statutory intervention
- Contributing to the co-ordination and proactive response to youth violence, both strategically and operationally
- Empowering young people to share their views and genuinely have an influence on service design and delivery

## **6.0 Financial implications**

- 6.1 The gross partnership provisional pooled budget for 2022-2023 for the Youth Offending Service is £2.3 million. Following the deduction of partnership income contributions, grants and other in-kind contributions of £887,000 from partners the approved net budget for the Council for the Youth Offending Service is £1.4 million.
- 6.2 A breakdown of the partnership pooled budget for the Youth Offending Service is shown in the attached Youth Justice Plan 2022-2023.  
[JG/16062022/B]

## **7.0 Legal implications**

- 7.1 Under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, each Local Authority is required to have in place arrangements for the delivery of Youth Justice services usually via a YOT.
- 7.2 YOT services are mandated in legislation and oversee Statutory Court Orders. It is a requirement for every area in England and Wales to provide YOT services.
- 7.3 A condition of the grant provided by central government is the provision of satisfactory services outlined in the production of an annual Youth Justice Plan.  
[TC/16062022/A]

## **8.0 Equalities implications**

- 8.1 The YOT provides services for some of the most vulnerable young people both as offenders, but also as victims of youth crime. There is on-going work to address the potential for disproportionality in the Youth Justice System.
- 8.2 YOT performance data indicates a disproportionate representation of males from Black Asian and mixed heritage ethnic groups. The YOT cannot solely influence and address this disproportionality as the police and the courts are also key in the decisions made when a Black Asian and other Minority Ethnic young person commits an offence.
- 8.3 The introduction of the DIVERT scheme in YOT is innovative practice in seeking to address the decriminalisation of Black, Asian and other Minority Ethnic groups through an improved partnership response between the police and the YOT.
- 8.4 There is also a key role for universal services, e.g. health and education, to deliver early intervention support to prevent Black Asian and other Minority Ethnic young people entering the youth justice system.
- 8.5 Current data suggests that black and mixed heritage males are the key groups to focus on, and the YOT is committed to developing practice and interventions that positively engage young people from Black Asian and other Minority Ethnic communities. Work will continue to identify ways in which the YOT can have influence and impact upon the disproportionality and this will be underpinned by a disproportionality action plan that is overseen by the YMB. The disproportionality action plan will include ongoing equality analysis.
- 8.6 In addition to the issue of race disproportionality, YOT data also identifies an over-representation of young people in the criminal justice system who have special educational needs and disabilities. The YOT will be integral in the citywide work to develop and improve the SEND system in order to ensure early identification of need and access high quality, suitable education provision.

## **9.0 All other implications**

- 9.1 In relation to human resources implications, the YOT is a multi-agency team made up of City of Wolverhampton employees as well as staff who are seconded from other services. YOT employees work to City of Wolverhampton terms and conditions and policies, or those of their seconding agency.
- 9.2 During 2021 - 2022 the YOT moved from its office space at Beckminster house to a newly refurbished office space in Retreat Street. From July 2021 onwards, in line with covid guidance, the YOT has been gradually increasing its use of the building and increasing face to face contact with young people and families. This has enhanced the YOT's interactions with young people and improved the quality of service delivery.

- 9.3 It is known that young people in the youth justice system experience poorer health outcomes. From a health and well being perspective there is therefore a need to ensure all health issues are identified as early as possible There needs to be a focus on ensuring health issues, for example mental health and substance misuse, do not pre-dispose a young person to becoming involved in the criminal justice system.
- 9.4 More broadly, it is important to consider the wider determinants of health and wellbeing. Almost all of the causes of childhood offending lie outside of the direct influence of the youth justice system. For example, within the YOT cohort it is evident that a number of young people have Special Education Needs and experience barriers to engaging in education. Therefore, it is crucial that health, education, social care and other services form a collaborative approach alongside law enforcement agencies, to prevent the offending and reoffending behaviour in children.
- 9.5 The strong strategic representation at YMB provides an opportunity to develop cross-sector partnerships aimed at reducing health and social inequalities.
- 9.6 It is recognised that during 2021-2022, the impact of the covid pandemic and the cost of living crisis has presented a number of challenges including:
- The reengagement of young people back into education/training
  - Loss of family income and increase in financial hardship for many families, creating additional strain within households and parental relationships
  - The long-term impact on young people’s emotional health and wellbeing. Alongside this, the impact on social development, including speech and language, emotional intelligence and resilience.
  - The increase and changing risks associated with exploitation and gang involvement. This includes online methods of grooming and targeting local young people, rather than recruitment of them to go “out of town” for county drug lines.
  - Increased risk of gang and public place violence, due to “pent up” aggression.
- 9.7 The YJB plan for 2022-2023 seeks to address these challenges.

## **10.0 Schedule of background papers**

10.1 Youth Justice Plan 2021-2022

## **11.0 Appendices**

11.1 Appendix 1 – Youth Justice Plan 2022-2023.



## Appendix 1



# Youth Justice Plan 2022 – 2023

Service	Wolverhampton
Service Manager/ Lead	Celia Payne
Chair of YJS Board	Bal kaur

1. [Introduction, vision and strategy](#)
2. [Local context](#)
3. [Child First](#)
4. [Voice of the child](#)
5. [Governance, leadership and partnership arrangements](#)
6. [Resources and services](#)
7. [Progress on previous plan](#)
8. [Performance and priorities](#)
9. [National standards](#)
10. [Challenges, risks and issues](#)
11. [Service improvement plan](#)
12. [Evidence-based practice and innovation](#)
13. [Looking forward](#)
14. [Sign off, submission and approval](#)
15. [Appendix 1](#) - Full board membership; linked to Governance, leadership and partnership arrangements
16. [Appendix 2](#) – Service Structure Chart

## 1. Introduction, vision and strategy

Wolverhampton Youth Offending Team (YOT) continues to be a forward thinking and ambitious organisation, committed to improving outcomes for young people, their victims and

creating a safer community. This reflects the core vision of the Youth Justice Board (YJB) as set out in the YJB Strategic Plan 2021 2024:

*“A youth justice system that sees children as children, treats them fairly and helps them to build on their strengths so they can make a constructive contribution to society. This will prevent offending and create safer communities with fewer victims.”*

Our recent Her Majesty’s Inspectorate of Probation (HMIP) inspection published in February 2022 found

*... “an effective service, with strengths apparent across assessment and service delivery for both court and out-of-court disposals. Reviewing was also robust in post-court cases. The YOT has an excellent understanding of what is required to deliver services and interventions to children and families, and work to promote this was evident”. (Pg4)*

It also commented that:

*“Staff know the children very well and go ‘over and above’ what is expected of them to ensure children are engaged and receiving the appropriate provision”.*

These findings and the commitment, creativity and passion of our team has been fundamental to the continuing drive for excellence. At the heart of our future strategy will remain Positive Youth Justice, Child First, Offender Second principles. It’s our pledge to ensure that a child never enters the CJS as a result of an unmet health need. Our approach will continue to seek to prioritise the best interest of the child, ensure our services are child-focussed and developmentally informed. In addition, our work will promote children’s strengths and capabilities as a means of developing their pro-social identity for sustainable desistance. This will continue to be implemented within a blended approach to public protection, in which the needs and the voice of victims will be at the heart of promoting individual and community safety.

In addition, Wolverhampton YOT and the youth justice partnership’s future strategy will continue to promote the decriminalisation of young people where appropriate, by diverting them from the criminal justice system (CJS) and mobilising a partnership response to identified need and risk. Connected with this, Wolverhampton YOT are strategically committed to ensuring custody and the use of the secure estate is reserved for the critical few. Alongside this, future strategy will collaborate work with a range of partnership organisations to develop and support genuine early prevention projects, specifically focussing on school exclusions, exploitation and serious youth violence. This will be strategically aligned with Wolverhampton’s legal duty to support a multi-agency response to preventing and tackling serious violence; Safer Wolverhampton partnership (SWP) and the regional Violence Reduction Unit (VRU). Overarching all of this, Wolverhampton and its youth justice partnership will work tirelessly at both a strategic and operational level to address the disproportionality which continues to exist within our CJS, with a specific lens on the lived experience of people of colour, young women and young people with special education needs.

This plan for Wolverhampton YOT will also contribute to the City of Wolverhampton Council’s “Our City, Our Plan working together to be a city of opportunity, a city for everyone” contributing towards many of its priorities including “strong families where children grow up well and achieve their full potential; and healthy, inclusive communities”.

The YMB has played an instrumental role in guiding and scrutinising the team's work and priorities in the last 12 months. The continued partnership contribution to the YOT shows the genuine local commitment from the youth justice partnership to support a multi-agency response to young people at risk or involved in the CJS in Wolverhampton.

This plan has been developed following a number of consultation events with the strategic members of the YMB. This provided an opportunity to review what had been learnt in the last 12 months, achievements, performance, priorities, and risks going forward. In addition, team members within the YOT; community panel volunteers and young people were asked to reflect on what had gone well, issues facing young people in Wolverhampton and priorities going forward. This feedback has been incorporated within the plan and the priorities for Wolverhampton going forward.

## **Executive summary:**

### **Achievements: 2021-2022**

- HMIP overall rating "good" with Staff, Partnership and Services, information and facilities, court and out of court implementation and delivery and resettlement rated as "outstanding".
- Launch of the DIVERT scheme (November 2021) in which young people who commit offences which are not indictable only and where they accept responsibility, are referred to a partnership Joint Decision-making Panel (JDP) to agree a pathway for support. Initial evaluation between November 2021 – January 2022 showed 27 young people had been through JDP, 89% received Outcome 22 and 11% Youth Conditional Cautions, resulting in a 78% reduction in first time entrants (FTE) in the CJS for quarter 3 2021-2022. Outcome 22 pathway is part of the Deferred Prosecution Scheme and once a young person completes their intervention it is recorded by the Police as No Further Action (NFA) therefore they are not formally criminalised.
- (Based on local data) Only **2** custodial sentences were recorded during the 2021-2022 year; a reduction of 4 when compared to the previous year, a reduction of 67%
- The Wolverhampton Reoffending live tracker toolkit, rolling 12-months cohort in quarter 4 data in 2020-2021, reported a **18.20%** overall binary rate, compared to national rate of 37.9%.
- The Reoffending live tracker toolkit, rolling 12-months cohort in quarter 4 data in 2020-2021 for Out of Court disposals, reported an overall binary rate of **9.10%** compared to national rate of 37.9%.
- Our continued development of our trauma informed practice and developmentally sensitive approaches to interventions. HMIP commented that:

*"Staff were creative when delivering interventions and used language and techniques that support the trauma-informed approach promoted by the YOT". (pg 9)*

- Excellent work in our Restorative Justice unit recognised within our HMIP report:

*"The YOT has an impressive restorative justice unit, which takes a holistic approach to working with children and victims". (pg8)*



- Our strategic and operational involvement in the city's response to the legal duty to support a multi-agency approach to preventing and tackling serious violence. YOT is a strategic member on the Violence Prevention Group, co-chair of the Partnership Gang Forum and is an active member of the Exploitation Hub. Alongside this, the YOT has developed a Creating safety Project targeted at early intervention for young people at risk of exploitation.

### **Challenges/Risks 2022-2023**

- Disproportionality within our cohort for young people from an ethnicity perspective and the continued lived experience challenges facing young people of colour.
- Escalation and overrepresentation of young people with special educational needs and Educational and Health Care Plans (EHCP) into the CJS
- Increase in youth violence and exploitation within Wolverhampton and the continued need for a public health response to the systemic issues facing young people and families within the city, especially during a "cost of living crisis" and the ongoing impact of COVID on the mental wellbeing of children and families.
- Continued commitment to appropriately funding the YOT and the broader youth justice partnership and ensuring local youth justice services are, from a governance perspective, still able to be delivered in the best possible way for the local population.

### **Opportunities 2022-2023**

- Continued learning and practice development for the team, focusing on trauma informed practice, including neurodiversity, learning from the HMIP thematic report on the experiences of Black and Mixed Heritage boys in the CJS and the continued development of bespoke packages of interventions and resources.
- Continued improvement in the team's quality of assessment, management of risk, contingency planning for all interventions.
- YJB proposed uplift in funding for the "Turnaround Programme" to support YOT's to develop an early intervention offer with child and families, offering voluntary, needs-driven, family-focussed support to de-escalate of behaviour and to get their lives back on track.

Regional collaboration on cross boundary issues, such as exploitation, county lines and gang, including a blueprint for positive youth justice in the west Midlands.

## **2. Local context**

Wolverhampton, a city in the West Midlands has a population of 262,000 based on 2018 mid-term estimates: an increase of almost 5% from the 2011 census. As of 2019 9.5% of the population comprises of young people aged 10 to 17 years. Based on the 2011 census data 61% of the 10 – 17 population are White and 39% Black, Asian, Minority and Ethnic young

people. Wolverhampton was ranked 28 out of 354 Local Authority Districts (with 1 being the most deprived) in 2007, having slipped from 35 in 2004. It has two Super Output Areas (SOA) within most deprived 1% in the country, and 15 in the top 5%. This demonstrates the need for significant intervention, strengthening the argument for intelligent investment to support economic growth and reduce deprivation in the City.

The City of Wolverhampton – One Council has a senior leadership team responsible for key themes including Families, Organisations and Community and Place. YOT is aligned and its corporate governance structure sits within the Families theme.

### Demographic and offending Profile:

This plan and the analysis used to inform judgements around performance and priorities are underpinned by an explicit understanding of the YOT's cohort of young people for 2021-2022. To this end, 89% of all disposals and 100% of custodial outcomes relate to young men. 50% of all disposals relate to Black Asian and other Minority Ethnic young people. Offences of violence against the person accounts for 49% of all offences and 14.6% of the cohort relate to Children and Young People in Care (CYPIC). (9% Wolverhampton and 5.6% Out of Borough CYPIC)

Offence Profile 2021-22	No/%	Disposals 2021-22	No/%	Interventions Started	No/%
Violence against the Person	88 (49%)	Outcome 22	53 (36%)	<b>Substantive Outcomes:</b>	
Drugs Offences	15 (8%)	Community Resolutions (CR)	9 (6%)	Youth Caution	16 (7%)
Theft and Handling Stolen Goods	14 (8%)	Youth Cautions (YC)	14 (9%)	YCC	20 (9%)
Criminal Damage	13 (7%)	Youth Conditional Cautions (YCC)	19 (13%)	Referral Order	18 (8%)
Motoring Offences	10 (6%)	Referral Orders	35 (23%)	YRO	13 (6%)
Robbery	9 (5%)	Community: YRO	17 (11%)	YRO Intensive Supervision and Surveillance	4 (2%)
Arson	5 (3%)	Custody	2 (1%)	Detention Training Order/Custody	1 (0.5%)
Domestic Burglary	5 (3%)	Total Disposals	149	Through Care Programme	1 (0.5%)
Public Order	5 (3%)	No of offences	180	<b>Other Outcomes:</b>	
Vehicle theft/Unauthorised Taking	4 (29%)	No of Young People	75	Outcome 22	56 (25%)
Breach of Statutory Order	3 (2%)			Community Resolution	9 (4%)
Other	3 (2%)			Prevention Programme	77 (34%)
Non-Domestic Burglary	2 (1%)			Voluntary Support Programme	1 (0.5%)
Racially Aggravated	2 (1%)			Bail Support Programme	5 (2%)
Breach of Bail	1 (.5%)			Remand in Custody (YDA) SCH	1 (0.5%)
Fraud and Forgery	1 (.5%)			Remand in Custody (YDA) YOI	2 (1%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>180</b>			<b>Total Interventions Started:</b>	<b>224</b>

		Out of Court Disposals						Court Disposals						Combined	
		Community Resolution		Youth Caution		Youth Conditional Caution		First Tier Disposals		Youth Rehabilitation Orders		Custody Disposals		Overall Disposals	
		2020/21	2021/22	2020/21	2021/22	2020/21	2021/22	2020/21	2021/22	2020/21	2021/22	2020/21	2020/21	2020/21	2021/22
Gender	Male	83%	67%	81%	79%	92%	89%	94%	94%	100%	94%	100%	100%	90%	89%
	Female	17%	33%	19%	21%	8%	11%	6%	6%		6%			10%	11%
Ethnicity	White	38%	56%	62%	79%	19%	37%	54%	49%	54%	47%	17%		44%	50%
	Mixed	10%	22%	5%	21%	50%	37%	22%	23%	23%	18%	50%	50%	22%	25%
	Asian	12%				8%	5%							4%	1%
	Black	24%	22%	29%		12%	21%	22%	20%	23%	35%	33%	50%	22%	21%
	Other Ethnic Group	2%				12%		2%	9%					3%	3%
	Unknown	14%		5%										4%	
Age	10														
	11	7%		5%										2%	
	12	5%	33%	19%	7%	8%	16%							5%	7%
	13	7%		14%		12%		2%	9%					6%	3%
	14	19%	33%	10%	7%	8%	16%	19%	3%		6%			14%	9%
	15	21%		5%	50%	19%	16%	35%	34%	23%	35%	17%		23%	29%
	16	21%	11%	19%	21%	19%	21%	17%	26%	62%	18%	50%	100%	23%	23%
	17	14%	22%	29%	14%	31%	26%	28%	29%	15%	41%			23%	27%
	18	5%				4%	5%					33%		3%	1%
Offence Type	Arson				7%	8%	11%		2%		1%			1%	3%
	Breach of Bail										1%				1%
	Breach of Conditional Discharge														
	Breach of Statutory Order										3%				2%
	Criminal Damage	7%		24%				5%	2%	12%	14%			8%	7%
	Death or Injury by Reckless Driving														
	Domestic Burglary							1%	5%		3%				3%
	Drugs Offences	12%	11%	10%	7%	8%		9%	12%	4%	7%		29%	8%	8%
	Fraud and Forgery												14%		1%
	Motoring Offences							5%	5%	6%	9%			3%	6%
	Non-Domestic Burglary	5%			7%	4%		3%			1%			2%	1%
	Other	26%	11%		7%	4%	5%	2%			16%		13%	10%	2%
	Public Order	10%	11%	5%	7%	4%	5%				3%	1%	13%	3%	3%
	Racially Aggravated		11%									1%			1%
	Robbery	2%					5%	3%	9%	6%	5%			3%	5%
	Sexual Offences	5%						3%			4%			3%	
	Theft and Handling Stolen Goods	10%	11%	5%	7%	4%	5%	3%	7%	1%	9%			4%	8%
Vehicle theft/Unauthorised Taking			14%		8%		8%	2%	3%	3%	13%		6%	2%	
Violence against the Person	24%	44%	43%	57%	62%	68%	57%	56%	45%	41%	63%	43%	48%	49%	
CYPIC	CYPIC - Wolverhampton	0%	0%	0%	7%	4%	5%	6%	6%	8%	12%	17%	50%	4%	7%
	CYPIC - Caretaking	0%	0%	0%	7%	0%	0%	4%	6%	57%	12%	0%	0%	6%	5%

### 3. Child First

Wolverhampton YOT has embraced the concept of Child First Offender Second and has built its vision, strategy and practice on “Positive youth justice” (K.Haines & S Case 2015). The YOT Management Board (YMB) terms of reference enshrine these principles. Throughout this plan it will be evident how the 4 tenets below are embedded in current practice and a focus for future development:

1. Prioritise the best interests of children and recognise their particular needs, capacities, rights and potential. All work will be child-focused, developmentally informed, acknowledge structural barriers and meet responsibilities towards children
2. Promote children’s individual strengths and capacities to develop their pro-social identity for sustainable desistance, leading to safer communities and fewer victims. All work will be constructive and future-focused, built on supportive relationships that empower children to fulfil their potential and make positive contributions to society
3. Encourage children’s active participation, engagement and wider social inclusion. All work will be a meaningful collaboration with children and their carers
4. Promote a childhood removed from the justice system, using pre-emptive prevention, diversion and minimal intervention. All work will minimise criminogenic stigma from contact with the system

#### **Some examples of how the 4 tenets are being delivered include:**

1. Development of trauma informed practice and developmentally sensitive interventions, emphasising the uniqueness of each child informing assessment and delivery of bespoke packages of support.
2. Strength based models of practice, building on the factors for desistance and promoting the Good Lives Model in which the intervention trauma informed framework of Attachment, Regulation and Competencies (ARC) promotes support that builds resilience. HMIP recognised this approach, including a quote from one child who said:  
  
*“The best thing about my YOT worker was that they didn’t make me feel like a bad person and listened to me.” (pg25)*
3. The YOT’s participation forum, opportunities for co-creation, and the feedback and evaluation framework used to improve and make practice responsive to the needs of the young people.
4. Strategic and operational commitment to the discrimination of all children and the launching of the DIVERT scheme in Wolverhampton.

## 4. Voice of the child

Our Participation Strategy sets out key aims for the next year, including the intention to dovetail with the City of Wolverhampton Participation Strategy and the Youth Justice Board Strategy.

### Principles:

#### Voice of our Children and Young People

- We operate the 'Child First, Offender Second' principles. At its heart it encourages young people to actively participate, engage and feel supported to co-create their programmes.
- We use the ladder of participation as a way of benchmarking participation progress

#### Evaluation and Feedback

- We routinely gather feedback for all our activities and interventions at the YOT including work in the secure estate.
- Analysis of this feedback is summarised in our 6-monthly participation and evaluation reports allowing us to prioritise, monitor and review progress, informing our participation action plan for 2022-2023. One recent example has been a young person's involvement with the re-design of the HUB within viewpoint with the external designer programmer - "You asked, we did" This will be complete by July 2022.

#### "You asked, we did" (From our 'Have your say' events)

- ❖ Re-naming the forum 'Have your Say' group replacing the previous name of Voices from Youth justice and helping to design leaflets and other resources for young people.
- ❖ Public health responding to a concern raised by a young person in a forum about knife crime and the number of knife bins in the city centre. The positioning and number of knife bins is now currently being reviewed.
- ❖ Creating an additional boxing activity after school hours to allow young people in school to attend and development of more art-based projects.
- ❖ Developing an online presence at the YOT, including an Instagram account, as well as all evaluations to be accessed via an online app.
- ❖ A notice board in reception to show the staff structure of the YOT with photos and avatars to help young people to understand who is who, within the team.

#### YOT Management Board (YMB)

Regular opportunities are created to ensure the voice of our children are heard at the most strategic level in the YOT. At YMB in April 2022 members heard the voices of two young people who presented their journeys through the YOT by the medium of short films. On a previous occasion a child in custody joined the YMB virtually and shared their experiences and outlined what would have helped when he was younger to avoid the path he had taken into custody. Most recently, the chair and vice chair of the YMB spent a day at Werrington YOI meeting and talking to young people about their experiences of custody and resettlement.

### Future focus, includes:

- Girl's consultation to hear their voices and views on how we should shape a bespoke girls programme and other identified support for girls work.
- Black and mixed heritage boys lived experience in Wolverhampton YOT and the broader CJS.
- Developing the voice of the child within the court arena
- Community & strategic partners attending 'Have Your Say' participation events

22 young people participated in a YJB Plan consultation exercise asking the questions below. The responses are a sample that illustrate the themes:

#### What do you think the YOT has done well in the last 12 months (if anything?)

- The young people reported they had built meaningful relationships with staff at the YOT and liked the regularity of the sessions.
- One young person mentioned that their worker helped them to access CAMHS and 360
- One young person mentioned how workers helped them within the school environment
- YOT practitioners helped access activities such as boxing and music

#### Direct quotes

- "Helped me see what I do affects others"
- "Listened to me and helped me think differently about the situation"
- "Settled me down in my weekly session.
- " Liked the ' Have your say' group-It was small and chilled"
- "Explained things to me so I understood"
- "YOT were 'on my side' and made me a better person"

#### What are the key issues facing young people, like you living in Wolverhampton?

- Knife crime was a feature for most YP alongside their concerns in relation to the use of social media (Bullying, grooming, getting messaged late at night)
- There was a strong view that there is a lack of activities and that youth clubs/skate parks are lacking and means YP get into trouble as they are just wandering the streets
- Social media was considered problematic by many YP's- harassment, exploitation, bullying etc
- Some environmental concerns in relation to rubbish and pollution

#### Direct quotes

- "There are gangs in every area'-Postcodes and 'Repping'
- "Carrying weapons to protect ourselves
- "Feeling safe on the streets"
- "It's a normal city, not enough for YP to do"
- "Need to feel protected so walk around in groups"
- "Social media is the problem-it never stops"

#### What should be the YOT's focus on/priority in the next 12 months?

- More community based and YOT based activities. -Comments included that it keeps young people busy and occupied and safe.
- YOT to work on having safe spaces in the city
- Continued work on gang crime.
- Work on social media and its influences.
- Some young people enjoyed group work.
- Continue to help families.

#### Direct Quotes

- "Would like to have worked longer with YOT" (Back on Track young person)
- " Getting older people who have been in trouble to speak to us younger young people about their lives"
- "I think we should get to visit a prison"
- "Help us find jobs so we are not wandering the streets"

## 5. Governance, leadership and partnership arrangements

The work of the YOT is overseen by a well-attended strategic quarterly YOT Management Board (YMB), chaired by a Consultant in Public Health, with the local Police Superintendent as vice chair (see appendix 1). It has developed a robust set of Terms of Reference (TOR) which were reviewed in 2022 using the YJB guidance on “Youth justice service governance and leadership”. The TOR explicitly incorporate the requirements to set the strategic direction of Youth Justice services in Wolverhampton, promotes the principles of ‘child first offender second’; oversees, supports and holds to account the work of the team; ensuring services are being delivered in line with the 2019 Standards in Youth Justice. The YMB is a learning meeting where partners can share collective wisdom and experience in order to shape the future of Youth Justice in Wolverhampton.

In order for the Board to effectively undertake these functions it continues to receive regular reports on:

- Resourcing: both finance and staffing including holding partners to account for any proposed changes
- Compliance with YJB grant conditions for example the timely submission of this plan and data returns
- A performance data report which is detailed in respect of key factors such as age, gender, race, offence type, Focus is on the three key national drivers and other local priorities – reducing reoffending; first time entrants to youth justice; custody rates and engagement of young offenders in education training and employment. The re-offending live tracker data is also presented to board along with a specific report on knife crime.
- Report and scrutiny over the action plan addressing issues of disproportionality
- National standards Self-Assessments, action plans and reviews
- Safeguarding briefing paper to allow any other Strategic or Operational safeguarding issues to be raised within this forum. Focus on Exploitation; custodial safeguarding practice and responses to serious incidents in order to ensure appropriate opportunities for operational and strategic learning.
- Focus on Practice - Operational practice presentations which bring alive the work of the YOT, including attendance of young people at YMB to share experiences of custody and working with the team.
- Progress against the key priority areas identified within the YJB plan and outcomes of case audits and quality assurance processes

A key part of the function of Board remains the holding to account its strategic partners in order to drive system improvement for children to achieve better outcomes (YJB Strategic Plan 2021-2024); and providing an escalation forum for any resourcing or operational issues. In addition, the YMB ensures that its members strategically embed the work and priorities of the YOT within their partnership agency, with a specific focus on promoting desistance, keeping young people and others safe and disproportionality.

The YOT is managed by the City of Wolverhampton Council (CWC) within Children’s Services and is well placed to contribute to the wider agenda of CWC and the broader Safer Wolverhampton Partnership (SWP). Reports about the work of the YOT are regularly presented to the CWC Children’s Senior Leadership Team (CSLT), the Strategic Executive

Board (SEB), the Wolverhampton Safeguarding Together partnership (WST) and through Scrutiny and Cabinet. This Youth Justice Plan is approved and endorsed by CWC Cabinet and the SWP.

The Youth Offending Team has strong links with key partnerships within the Children's Services and Community Safety areas of work. The YOT Head of Service has a broad portfolio within Children's Services including edge of care support services, residential children's homes, Partnership Exploitation and Missing Hub. This broad remit fits well with the work of the YOT and has also assisted in strengthening the working relationship with Social Care. The YOT's key priorities will be identified and included in the Children's and Young People Service Plan 2022 - 2023.

Within the Safer Wolverhampton Partnership, the YOT participates in the Partnership Board and attends the Delivery Board. In addition, the YOT is also represented at a number of other key operational and strategic meetings and boards including the Violence Prevention Group, Child Exploitation and Missing Operational Group (CEMOG), the Exploitation Priority Group (a sub-group of WST), the Children and Young People Emotional, Mental Health and Wellbeing Partnership Board, Children and Families Together Board and the Clinical Commissioning Group Risk Register meetings.

HMIP rated the arrangements for governance and leadership as "good" and partnership and services as "outstanding"

## 6. Resources and services

Wolverhampton YOT partnership receives a variety of resources both financial and in kind from its partners all of which are overseen and understood within the strategic YOT Management Board. The YJB Practice Grant is a key source of financial income that is used to finance staffing to support the wide range of Youth Justice functions undertaken across the partnership. Unfortunately, the YJB grant has not been confirmed, other than an indication that it will not be less than 2021-22. This Practice Grant is supported by the Local Authority contribution which has allowed the continued investment in Social Workers to undertake assessments, reporting and intervention planning and delivery within the Criminal Justice setting, enhancing safeguarding and risk management practice.

Partner contributions to the youth offending partnership pooled budget 2022-2023 is outlined below. This indicates the finance and in-kind contributions made by local partners. This funding and the in-kind contributions enable the YOT and the youth justice partnership to concentrate on its strategic aims to divert young people from the CJS safely, reduce reoffending, promote the best outcomes for young people and protect victims and communities from future harm. In accordance with the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, Wolverhampton YOT receives contributions from all statutory partners – Police, Education, Health, Probation and Social Care. Any proposal to change the levels of resourcing are presented at YMB for discussion and ratification.

For 2022-2023 the YOT will receive direct funding from the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) of £66k and this funding is specifically used to support the DIVERT scheme. The use of this budget and its aligned performance indicators are reported back to the PCC on a quarterly basis. The DIVERT delivery continues to be supported by the police contribution,



alongside its work with high-risk young people, Partnership Gang Forum, Deter Young Offender (DYO) scheme and the Multi-agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA). Additional funding is being sought by the Police Offender Management Unit to provide a second Youth Crime officer for the YOT to support the delivery of DIVERT. The National Probation Service (NPS) contributions to Wolverhampton YOT for 2022- 2023 will be a full-time Probation Officer (PO). The PO role will focus on the transition to adulthood work for 17-year-olds and working with our high-risk young people.

The combined health budget has allowed the YOT to develop a sophisticated health offer within the service, which triages all young people for health issues. The aim of the YOT health offer is to ensure that no young person enters the Criminal Justice System with unmet health needs. The integrated health team consists of a school nurse from Royal Wolverhampton Trust (RWT), a Psychologist from the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS), a Substance Misuse from Wolverhampton W360) and a Speech and Language therapist from RWT. The School Nurse and Substance Misuse posts are commissioned by Public Health. In our recent HMIP inspection the report indicated that further funding was required to increase the Speech and Language offer within the team. The YMB are exploring potential pathways for this funding. A performance framework has been established with the health providers and via a quarterly health summit, performance and outcomes are reviewed. In addition, alternative resourcing is being finalised to fund the Back on Track (BoT) project for 2022-23 following the funding from Headstart ending in 2022.

**Partner contributions to the youth offending partnership pooled budget 2022-2023**

<b>Agency</b>	<b>Staffing costs (£)</b>	<b>Payments in kind – revenue (£)</b>	<b>Other delegated funds (£)</b>	<b>Total (£)</b>
<b>Local authority*</b>	<b>1,06,180</b>	<b>18,660</b>	<b>375,880</b>	<b>1,454,720</b>
<b>Police Service</b>	<b>27,360</b>	<b>74,100</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>101,460</b>
<b>National Probation Service</b>	<b>5,000</b>	<b>50,496</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>55,496</b>
<b>Health Service</b> School Nurse/ CAMHS/Substance Misuse /Speech and Language		<b>144,207</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>144,207</b>
<b>Police and crime commissioner**</b>	<b>66,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>66,000</b>
<b>YJB Practice Grant</b>	<b>520,900 (TBC)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>520,900</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,679,440</b>	<b>268,047</b>	<b>375,880</b>	<b>2,323,367</b>

## 7. Progress on previous plan

The progress against the YOT Business plan for 2021-22 has been monitored and reported at the YMB. It's been supported by a number of operational actions plans in which key operations managers have held responsibility for delivery with the team. The final review of the plan was completed and agreed at the last YMB in April 2022.

### **Actions completed include:**

- Reshaping and incorporating lessons learnt from the pandemic into the delivery model of the YOT going forward
- Reviewing the ToR for the YMB
- Ensure all partnership Service Level Working Together Arrangements are fit for purpose.
- Embedding diversion at the point of arrest – launching a new criteria for police referral to the OOCJ Joint Decision Panel (JDP)
- Embedding the work of the Speech & Language therapist in all areas of YOT practice
- Review YOT intervention offers to fully align with the ARC trauma informed framework and continue to embed trauma informed practice, with a specific focus on offences of violence, weapon related offending and gang/exploitation support
- Development of YOT Peer mentoring Programme
- Embed the work of the Partnership Exploitation and Missing Hub and the Partnership Gang Forum in order to develop an effective response to contextualised safeguarding
- Promote the voice of the child and encourage meaningful participation.
- Continuing to promote Resettlement Support Panels and the proactive engagement of young people within the secure estate.

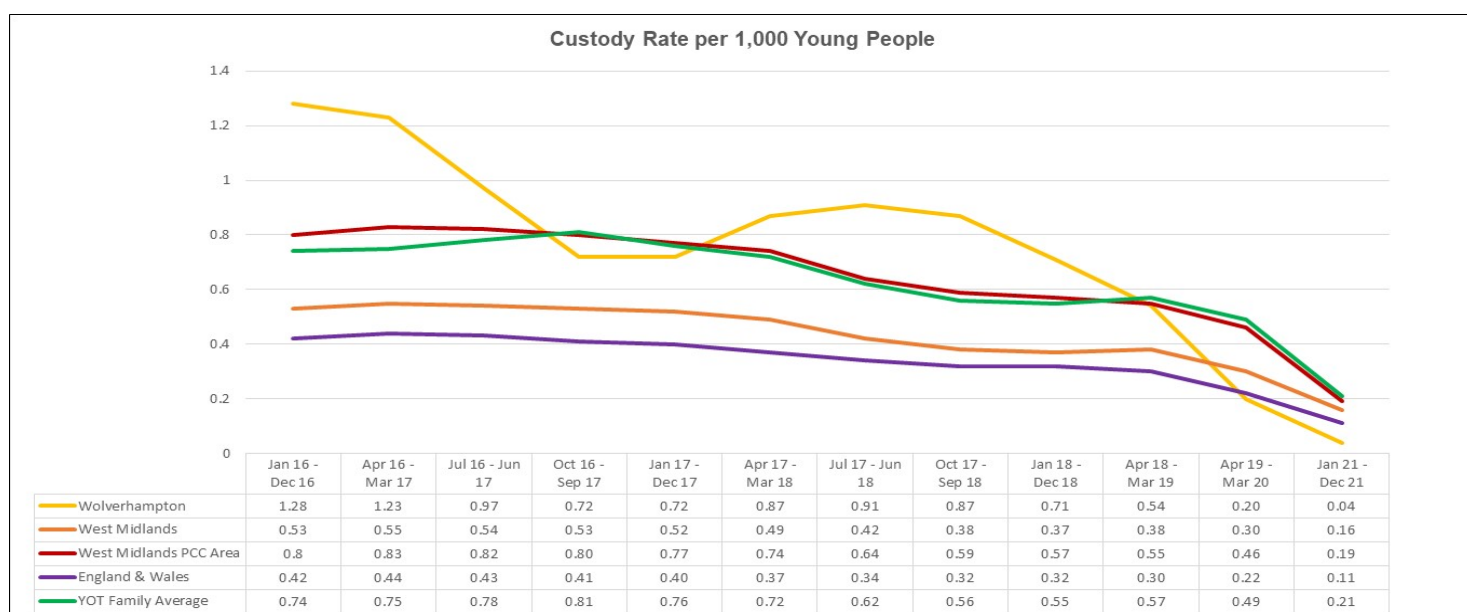
### **Actions to carry forward into the YOT Business Plan 2022-2023, include:**

- Building upon the work with Children and Young People in Care (CYPIC) to further reduce their risks of criminalisation.
- Improving the educational engagement and outcomes for all young people at the YOT
- Extension of the whole family / carer offer within the service
- Addressing areas of disproportionality and promoting wider partnership engagement to reduce areas of significant disproportionality.

## 8. Performance and priorities

### Use of Custody and constructive resettlement:

(Based on local data) two custodial sentences were recorded during 2021-2022; a reduction of four when compared to the previous year, equating to a reduction of 67%. Both sentences were received by males aged between 16 and 17 years. Both sentences were received by males from an ethnic minority group. One male was black and one male mixed ethnicity.



The custody rate for Wolverhampton has recorded year on year reduction since October 2017, and has fallen below the national average, West Midlands average and YOT family average since 2020.

### Youth Detention Accommodation

Four young people were subject to youth detention accommodation throughout 2021-2022, consistent with the previous year, however, the collective days on remand were more than double the number from the previous year, with an increase of 130% when compared to 2020-2021.

2020/21			2021/22		
Number of young people on remand	Collective days spent on remand	Annual Remand Costs (£)	Number of young people on remand	Collective days spent on remand	Annual Remand Costs (£)
4	347	£97,905	4	798	£381,018

Throughout 2021-2022 three of the four young people were remanded in a YOI and the other in a SCH. During 2021-2022 there has been an increase of 289% (£283,113) in remand costs

predominantly linked to the YP remanded to a SCH which attracts a higher daily fee of £438 more than a YOI remand. The young person remanded to a SCH was aged 14 years with the three young people remanded to YOI aged 16 years (one YP) and 17 years (two YP). Two of the young people were black and two were white. At the end of 2021-2022 two of the YP remain on remand with one YP receiving a six-month custodial sentence and the 14-year-old found not guilty during his trial after a period of 296 days on remand. All of the young people were on remand for offences of violence against the person as their most serious offence. Other offences included drugs offences, driving motoring offences and robbery.

The use of custody within Wolverhampton continues to be extremely low, lower than all its comparators. This aligns with the YOT's ambition to ensure that the secure estate is only used for the critical few, in which the risks cannot be adequately managed in the community and the impact on the victim has been significant.

**However, the YOT will endeavour to keep working to ensure that use of custody remains low by:**

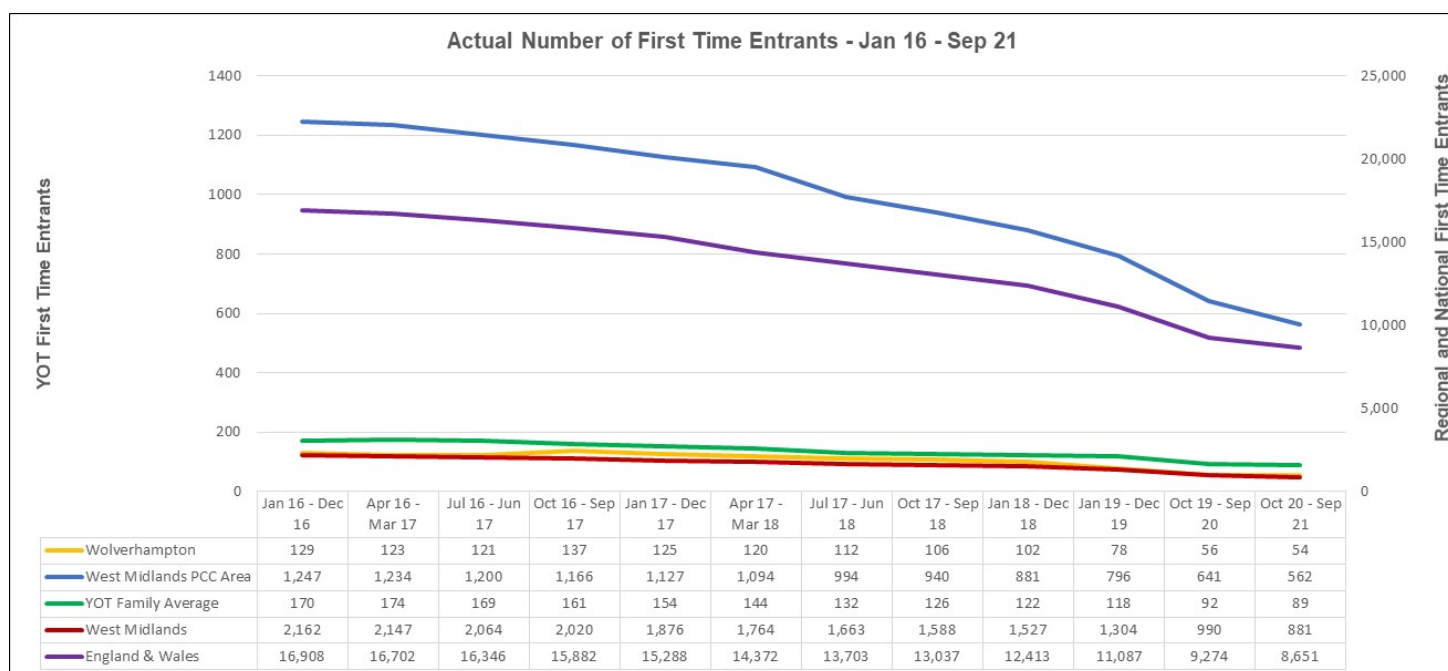
- Producing quality gatekept reports to the court, supported by proportionate and credible community sentence recommendations
- The maintenance of a robust Intensive Supervision and Surveillance scheme (ISS) offering oversight and creative interventions to address risky offending and offer real alternatives to custody and secure remands
- Provision of high-quality court officers that are responsive and proactive in tailoring bail alternatives for court, including weekends
- Maintaining the confidence of the court in all tiers of interventions and bail options e.g., Referral Order panels by offering shadow visits, presentations to Youth Court Panel meetings etc
- Clear and credible compliance and, where necessary, enforcement procedures
- A clear risk management policy that reviews and maintains management oversight
- Working closely with voluntary and community sector partners to ensure our service is relevant and responsive to all of Wolverhampton's diverse communities
- Working closely with Children's Services in the response and management of remand bail requests to avoid, where appropriate, secure remands

With regard to constructive resettlement, Wolverhampton has an established system of Resettlement Support Panels based on the YJB's '7 pathways of resettlement'. This has resulted in the development of Education Training and Employment (ETE) and mentoring support via YOT resettlement support and partnership organisations. Werrington YOI operational lead for resettlement is also an active YMB member and the YOT are represented on Werrington's Safeguarding board. HMIP rated resettlement as "outstanding" and commented:

*"The YOT has had a resettlement policy in place for a number of years, which includes guidance on the operation of resettlement panels. The policy has been reviewed and updated. There is a local agreement with children's social care that all children will be released into appropriate accommodation. There is a representative from the secure estate on the management board, and evidence that the YOT appropriately escalates concerns about children in custody". (pg10)*

## First Time Entrants

(Based on local data) The First Time Entrant rate for Wolverhampton throughout 2021-2022 has recorded a 38.6% reduction in young people during 2021-2022 and a 21.6% reduction in the number of offences committed amongst FTE when compared to the previous year. 2020-2021 recorded 44 young people, reducing to 27 during 2021-2022. YJB available data (October 2020 – September 2021) reflects a reduction of 8.5%, higher than the -5.9% recorded by Wolverhampton’s YOT family Group (made up of comparative YOTs). The data available from the YJB precedes the introduction of Outcome 22 within Wolverhampton YOT, which has further impacted on FTE numbers throughout 2021-2022.



The actual number of FTE as displayed in the YJB charts reflects the downward trend within Wolverhampton since 2016 also mirroring the overall downward trend across all regions since this period.

The YOT performance report year to date identified that offences of violence against the person (55%), drugs offences (15%) and theft and handling stolen goods (13%) are the most common for FTEs. The rate of violence against the person has remained consistent with the 2020-2021 rate of 58%, but this was a notable increase after recording 32% amongst FTE during 2019-2020.

It must be noted that the impact of DIVERT and the use of Outcome 22 on the YOT’s First Time Entrants Data has for Quarter 3 in 2021-2022 shown a significant impact already. The data produced for the Safer Wolverhampton Partnership (SWP) showed that FTE comparative rates for Quarter 3 2020-2021 (18 young people) and 2021-2022 (4 young people) reported a reduction of 78%, primarily as a result of the use of Outcome 22. We would expect this trend to continue, and as long as young people successfully complete their Outcome 22 interventions, this will have a significant impact on the formal decriminalisation of young people in Wolverhampton.

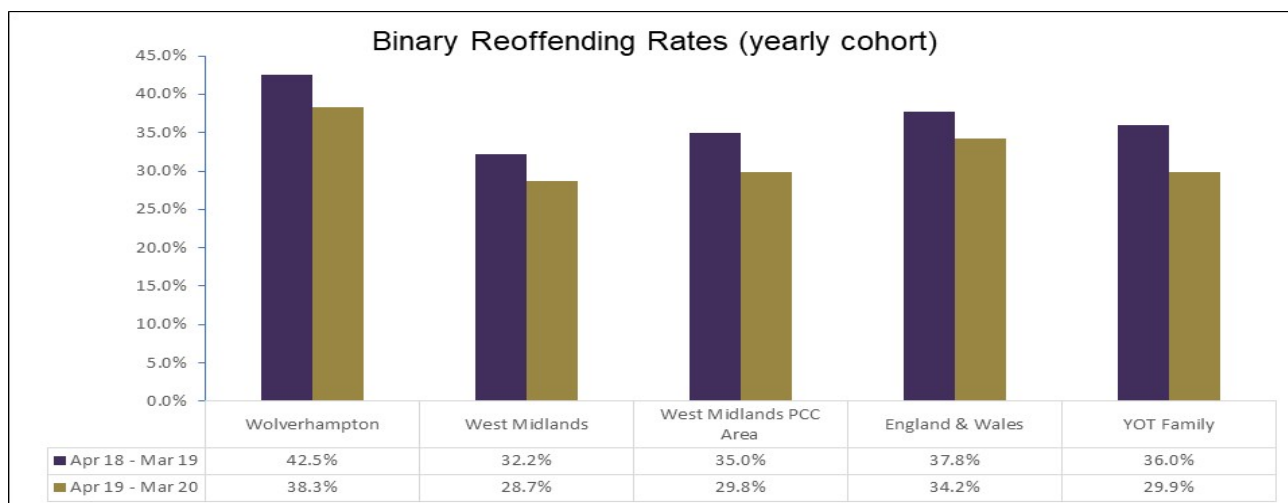
**Further initiatives to continue to reduce FTE include:**

- Exploitation and Missing Hub and the Partnership gang's forum providing a vehicle for earlier identification of young people at risk of exploitation and offering early intervention packages of support to prevent young people entering the CJS
- Development and delivery of the new YOT Creating Safety Project targeted at young people at risk of exploitation prior to involvement in the CJS
- Explore the proposed YJB funding for the "Turnaround" programme to support YOTs to develop an early help offer.
- Continued funding to support the Back on Track Project aimed at providing early intervention for years 7, 8 and 9 pupils at risk of school exclusion due to criminogenic related behaviours i.e., knife and/or drug possession at school
- Work with the Schools and Police Panel to reduce the criminalisation of young people involved in offence related behaviours within the school setting.
- Embedding of Restorative Practice within identified Residential Units to promote the "making it right" programme to mediate and prevent criminalisation in residential settings. In addition, working with youth justice partners in the delivery of the National Protocol for the discrimination of young people in care.

**Reducing Reoffending**

**Binary rates of reoffending** (YJB Data April 2019 – March 2020)

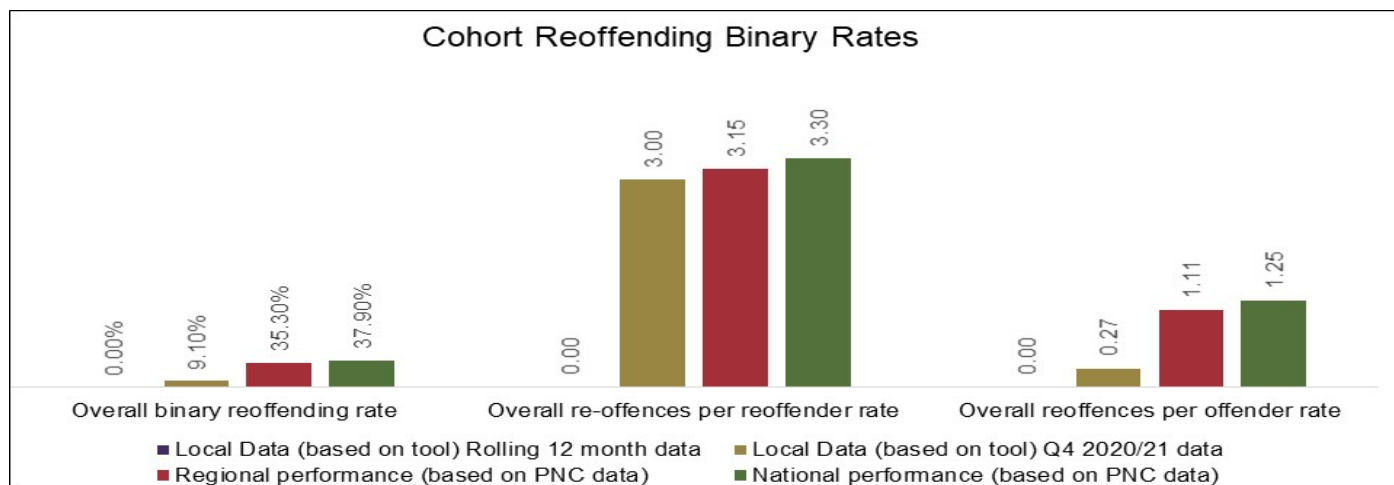
During 2019-2020 Wolverhampton recorded a decrease in the reoffending rate from 42.5% to 38.3%. All other areas regionally and nationally recorded slight reductions in the yearly cohort rates.



**Reoffending Live Tracker Tool (local data)**

Tracking in quarter 4 during 2020-2021 recorded a 18.2% overall binary rate, with 4.50 reoffences per reoffender rate. The overall reoffences rate across the cohort was at a rate of 0.82. With the exception of the overall re-offences per reoffender rate, all rates fall below both the regional and national performance for reoffending.

Within Wolverhampton YOT the 'Reoffending Tracker tool' is also used to track young people who receive an OOC. This tracks the reoffending rates of young people who receive Community Resolutions, Youth Cautions and Youth Conditional Cautions and all young people are tracked for a 12-month period.



The data shows that for quarter 4 in 2020-2021, the overall binary rate for OOC was 9.1%, with significantly lower reoffending occurring compared to national rate of 37.90%. Overall re-offences per re-offender for Wolverhampton was 3.00 compared to national 3.30, and the overall reoffences rate across the cohort was 0.27 compared to 1.25 national rate.

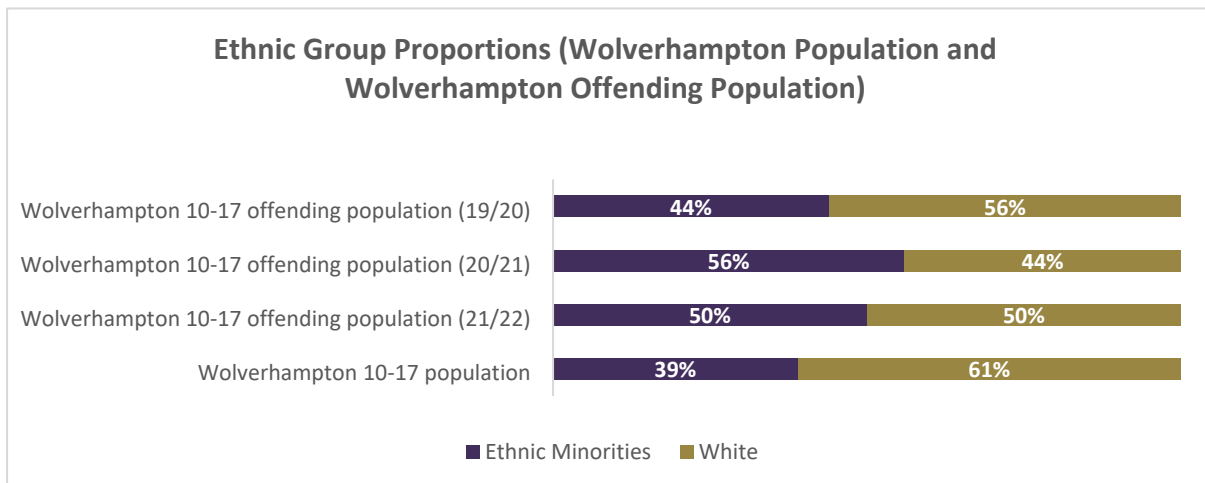
**Key initiatives to further reduce reoffending in the YOT:**

- Continued use of the Reoffending Live Tracker information to target our resources on the areas of most significant reoffending
- Continued training and investment in improving the quality of assessments, planning, delivery and reviewing with regard to desistance, keeping young people and others safe. In line with our HMIP recommendation improve the quality of contingency planning and managing and mitigating a child’s risk of harm to others.
- Further embedding trauma informed practice and the development of the ARC framework to target and develop interventions designed to adapt a more Public Health and systemic approach to reducing reoffending
- Development of bespoke projects and programmes designed to engage young people into activities to build attachments, learn to self-regulate and develop their own social competencies
- Specific focus and resources to improve Education, Training and Employment opportunities and support
- Maintaining scaled approach contact levels to ensure intensity of interventions match assessed risks and needs, to allow greater scope for non-statutory engagement.
- Seven day per week services for our most challenging and risky service users
- Compliance meetings with young people and their carers to ensure that any deterioration in their response to YOT programmes of intervention is quickly understood, addressed, and improved
- Resettlement Support Panels to co-ordinate and deliver effective provision to reduce risks of reoffending on release from custody
- YOT led partnership 6 -weekly gang forum to identify and map young people most at risk of exploitation and gang involvement to promote a multi-agency response to managing risks.

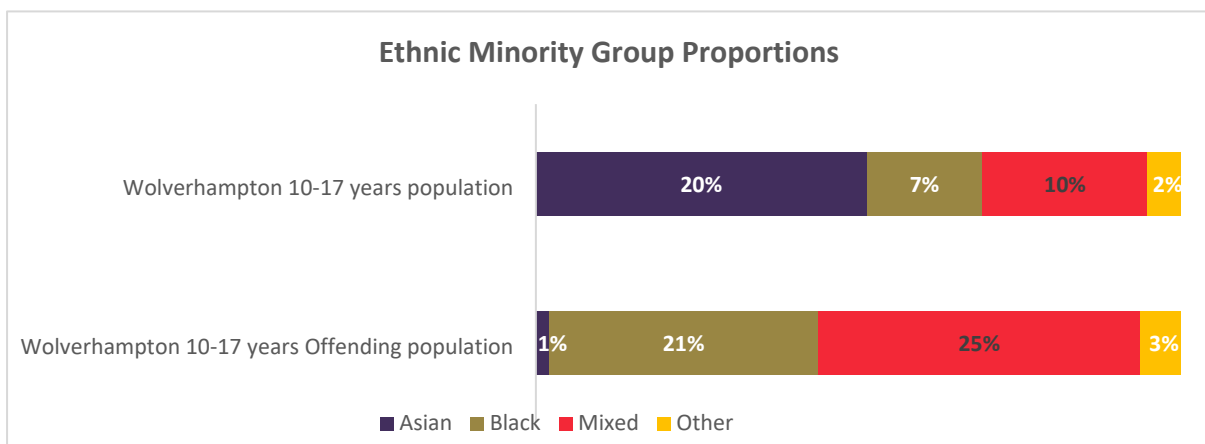
- Proactive Police/YOT offender management for you people identified as part of the Deter Young Offenders (DYO) scheme
- Work with families and parents to ensure the ‘whole family’ approach is embedded with a focus on an understanding of therapeutic approaches to parenting to support developmentally informed intervention for sustainable desistance

**Overrepresentation within our cohort:**

The 2011 Census data reported that the split of ethnic groups between 10 – 17-year-olds was split by 39% ethnic minorities and 61% white. The mid-year estimates (April 2019) predict the ratio is now approximately 46% for Black, Asian and other minority Ethnic groups and 54% white British amongst 10-17 years olds in Wolverhampton. For the purposes of direct and accurate comparison this report uses the 2011 census data in relation to ethnicity.

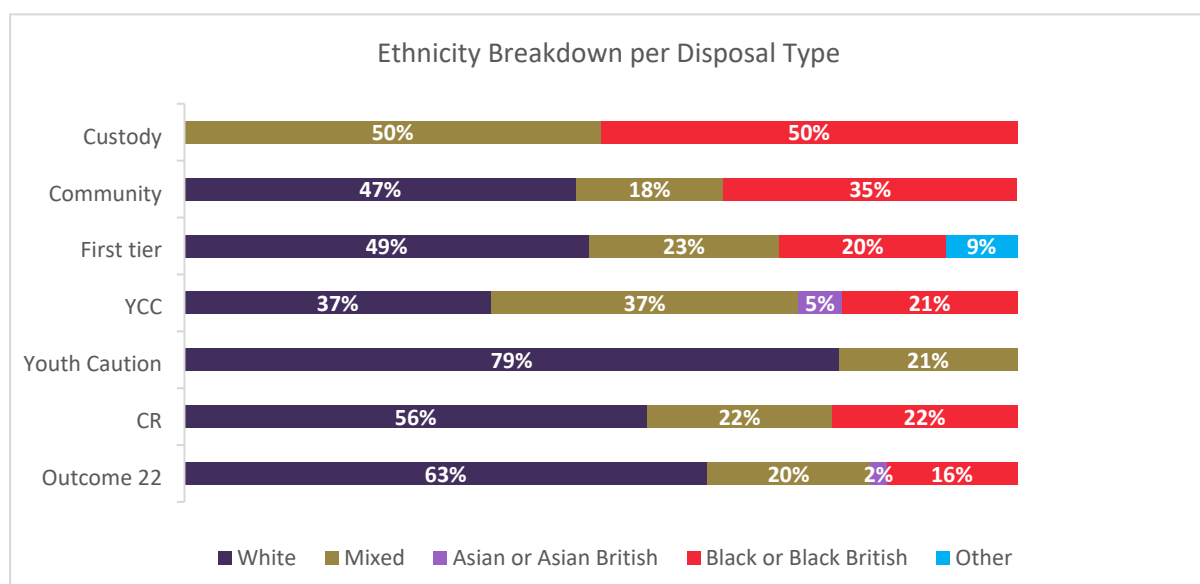


The data continues to reveal a level of disproportionality within the Wolverhampton cohort when compared to the general population. 2021-2022 data is showing a modest reduction of 6% when compared to 2020-2021. The breakdown by ethnicity for 2021-2022 reveals that the 50% cohort represents 1% Asian, 21% Black, 25% mixed heritage and 3% other young people, highlighting the larger disproportionality for black and mixed heritage young people.





The analysis by ethnicity for disposals reflects the over-representation of Black and Mixed Heritage within the overall cohort, apart from the pre-court disposals. The custody data only represents 2 young people.



Wolverhampton YOT has developed a detailed and comprehensive action plan to address its issues of disproportionality, focussed primarily on Black, Asian and other Minority Ethnic young people. This work will also ensure that young people with other protective characteristics or overrepresented in the CJS are also within scope, including embedding a regional standard of practice for working with girls; decriminalisation of children young people in care; closing the education gap for young people with Special Education Needs; ensuring our services are responsive to Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgendered young people.

With regard to the experiences of Black and Mixed Heritage boys in the CJS, the YOT will be responding to the key findings and recommendations from the HMIP thematic report, which included areas of practice that enhanced the quality of work with Black and mixed heritage boys, including:

- A clear anti-racist stance taken by leaders raises staff’s confidence to advocate for black and mixed heritage boys in their work.
- Well-coordinated work with third sector and community organisations enhances the quality of service delivery.
- Providing effective support to parents and carers of black and mixed heritage boys promotes their engagement.
- The effective use of data is reflected in better quality service delivery

In addition, our action plan will address the recommendation within our HMIP report which stated that the YMB should “ensure that staff are appropriately trained and confident in having conversations to understand black, Asian and minority ethnic children’s experiences in order to improve the quality and suitability of service provision” (pg 10)

**Other initiatives and headlines from the Disproportionality Action plan 2022-2023 include:**

- DIVERT scheme, embracing the Lammy findings on breaking the cycle of mistrust with the Police and removing the barriers for Black and Mixed Heritage boys accessing pre-court pathways for support.
- Cultural competence training scheduled for the whole team.
- The established YOT Equality forum to continue to provide the opportunity for team reflection, discussion and practice change.
- Embedding the understanding that young people who have experienced racism have had a trauma journey, which has been intergenerational and reflect it within our assessments, reports and interventions.
- YMB to have greater opportunity to understand the needs of our over-represented groups.
- YMB to be the focal platform for the youth justice partnership to understand the system areas of disproportionality and collaborate on a collective response to issues of disproportionality “down-stream” in the system i.e., education engagement, access to preventative support, including mental wellbeing services.
- Consultation forum for Black, Asian and other ethnic minorities to understand the lived experiences and shape what future delivery should look like.
- “Levelling the Playing Field” YJB project to promote and develop our work collaboratively with local third sector and community organisations
- Provision of specialist whole family working for parents of Black and Mixed Heritage boys
- Regional project for girls in CJS to establish a standard of practice
- Specific additional resourcing and Education, Employment and Training (EET) specialist within the team to support young people. Alongside this, the identification of a dedicated SEN officer within the education inclusion team.

**Local Performance targets**

**Education Training and Employment (ETE)**

	2020/21					2021/22				
	Q1 2020/21	Q2 2020/21	Q3 2020/21	Q4 2020/21	FY 2020/21	Q1 2021/22	Q2 2021/22	Q3 2021/22	Q4 2021/22	FY 2021/22
% Overall Performance	60%	63%	40%	40%	54%	89%	38%	77%	50%	64%
% School Age met 25 hours target	80%	50%	50%	100%	70%	75%	67%	100%	0%	61%
% Over School Age met 16 hours target	40%	67%	33%	25%	44%	100%	20%	73%	57%	63%

Between 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 that has been a 10% increase in overall ETE performance, increasing from 54% to 64%. There has also been a notable increase to 63% from 44% within the over school age cohort. However, there has been a reduction in the engagement rates for school aged children from 70% to 61%

Across the full cohort 27 (30.3%) were recorded as young people with SEND. 20 (22.5%) YP had an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) and seven (7.87%) recording SEN Support. 15 (75%) of the YP with an EHCP recorded a court disposal. The over-representation of young people with either SEND and EHCP within our cohort was recognised within our HMIP inspection recommendation in which it required the YMB to make sure these young people had access to high-quality education and training services that are matched to their needs. It has been acknowledged that the YOT does not have the commissioning role nor the governance over the provision of services for young people with SEND/EHCPs, however the

YMB will be working with the Head of Service for Inclusion and Empowerment, including SENSTART and the Head of Skills to advocate and oversee the future provision of services.

**Future improvement will be driven by:**

- Broadening the data analysis to all young people open on an intervention, as well as those closing their statutory order, to provide a richer source of analysis to identify trends and patterns in ETE engagement and inform practice priorities
- Devise a role in SENSTART for a specific SEND officer to have an operational link to YOT for a single point of contact for all EHCP reviews
- Review Pupil Referral Unit (PRU) and Alternative Provision (AP) to consider Early Intervention options and therapeutic educational placements to reduce the number of young people requiring longer term placements in AP and PRU placements
- YOT to be included within the SEND provision quality assurance framework. This will be co-produced with young person, parent carers, health, education and social care colleagues. This will include requirements for audit and moderation panels and include a themed audit test cycle
- YMB to monitor development and implementation of the vulnerability Matrix to be developed across the council by Head of Inclusion & Empowerment
- Identification of continued funding for the Back on Track Project to provide support to Years 7, 8 and 9 pupils at risk of exclusion
- Revision of the practice of reviewing EHCP only after release from custody to ensure they are completed in preparation of release, and SEND officer to attend Resettlement Support panels.
- YOT representation on the CWC Secondary School Inclusion Support and Alternative Provision Panel (ISAPP) to provide bespoke support to young people at risk of exclusion
- YOT attendance at the CWC Culture of Inclusion Steering group and project groups to influence and set the direction of future education practice
- Attendance at the Police and Schools Panel to establish closer working relationships with schools
- Monthly YOT multi-agency pre-16 and post-16 panels to plan and identify resources to support young people to maintain ETE and/or identify a placement
- Educational Psychologist (EP) support to provide support, advice & guidance on SEND and EHCP processes
- Speech and Language therapist to assess and support young people into ETE
- Partnership secondment of post 16 Connexions Advisor within the YOT to provide bespoke support to young people. Dedicated YOT officer providing further post-16 support
- Dedicated ETE YOT Officer to provide additional resource and support.
- Roll out of ASDAN to support pathways back into mainstream learning

**Prevention:**

Wolverhampton YOT have developed 2 bespoke prevention programmes in collaboration with 4 schools (Back on Track) and with the Children Services and the Exploitation Hub (Creating Safety Project). Future opportunities will be explored in expanding our early prevention offer, in line with the YJB proposals for the "Turnaround programme"

**Back on Track (BOT):** This project was initiated following small-scale funding (£50k) being made available to the Youth Offending Team from the Early Intervention Youth Fund (part of the Safer Wolverhampton Partnership) in July 2019. It focuses on the prevention of young people becoming permanently excluded from mainstream education. Evidence based research has highlighted the correlation between young people who have been permanently excluded from education and the increased risk of becoming involved in anti-social/offending behaviour.

The project focuses on early intervention and providing support for young people in year 7,8 & 9, parents/carers, and schools. We are currently working within 4 schools, across Wolverhampton. Back on Track provides holistic intervention by assessing the individual's needs, in school, at home and within the wider community. Once established, support is provided to address areas of need through a trauma informed lens. Young people can access support from a wide range of services to address a variety of areas including SEND, social and emotional mental health, substance misuse as well as positive activities.

The project promotes joint working with schools, collaborating with the young person and their family to identify interventions together that will improve engagement at school and avoid exclusion and offending.

**Creating Safety Project (CSP):** This project was launched in 2022 as a response to the increasing levels of young people at risk of exploitation and therefore at risk of entering the criminal justice system. The project has been designed to use the frameworks of contextualised safeguarding and through a case formulation process work with the young person to identify their safety issues, understand what safety means to them in regard to physical, emotional, financial and location/place. It's a project designed to work with young people and their families to support them to create and maintain their own and others safety.

### **Diversion:**

Our HMIP Inspection identified National Standards 1 "Out of Court" as being good for the Assessment, Planning, disposal policy and Provision. They also identified the implementation and delivery of this area of work as Outstanding. HMIP were informed of the plan to address some of the improvements identified from the National standards self-assessment audit (2020) completed by YOT Managers and YOT Management Boards Members. This identified the need for improvements in relation to our Diversion offer to systemically address areas of disproportionality, through a public health and partnership approach. It also identified the need to incorporate work with community/third sector partners, and to create a diversion at the point of arrest pathway, alongside the formal out of court route.

The Youth Justice Plan 2021 – 2022 and the NS1 "Out of Court" Action Plan 2021-2022 identified key actions regarding improving the YOTs diversion offer which was developed through support from the Centre for Justice Innovation and the YJB Pathfinder. DIVERT, which is Wolverhampton YOTs diversion at the point of arrest scheme, has a working agreement between the YOT and West Midlands Police, in using a deferred prosecution Outcome 22 (DIVERT Pathway) to promote diversion into a child focused system that promotes constructive behaviour through multi-agency intervention.

An audit and evaluation report were presented to the Children Services Senior Leadership Team and YMB in February 2022, the highlights within this report include:

- A disproportionately high number of referrals are known to SENSTART, with 18% having an Educational and Health Care Plan (EHCP) and 50% with SEN support needs.
- Assaults accounted for 54% of the offences heard at the JDP and the majority (87%) of those had a ACPO Gravity Matrix score of 1 and 2 after adjustments
- Of the cohort, 89% of the young people received a DIVERT Pathway (Outcome 22)
- Of the cohort, over half of the victims (64%) gave their consent and provided their details, but only 54% were willing to engage in restorative justice work, with 43% having an ongoing piece of restorative work between the YP and the victim

The YOT 6 monthly participation report October 2021- March 2022, used data from 62 JDP evaluations completed by young people and their parent/carers who received outcomes through DIVERT. Some of highlights include:

- 93% of young people were able to give their view about the help and support they needed
- 95% reported that the decision-making panel was explained to them
- 76% of the young people 'definitely' agreed with the outcome of the panel and 18% 'sort of' agreed.
- 90% of young people were either definitely (84%) or sort of (6%) happy with the plan of support offered.

Overall, the feedback provided in relation to the delivery of the DIVERT Scheme was positive, there were some areas of development identified around police information.

### **Priorities moving forwards**

- Ongoing review of the collaboration of Health partners within the DIVERT Scheme, to ensure young people with unmet health needs are identified at the earliest opportunity.
- Continue to quality assure Police Referrals to DIVERT to ensure all information such as victim consent, offence detail, and interview summary has been completed
- Continue to develop a mechanism with the Police and Courts that enables the YOT to identify and divert young people from court to the JDP at the earliest opportunity if eligible.
- Build links with third sector organisations to support the diversion intervention offer, this includes embedding the local YJB Levelling the playing field providers within the YOTs core intervention offer.
- Continue to gather data to analyse cost savings and avoidance of the scheme. Also, to evidence the impact of the scheme on the rate of First Time Entrants entering the CJS.

## **Serious Violence and Exploitation**

Using the YJB definitions of serious youth violence the below 5-year comparison shows there has been a huge reduction. Overall serious violence offences reduced by -76% in the five years between 2020-2021 and 2016-2017. Levels increased slightly in 2021-2022 but remain much lower than the pre-pandemic levels recorded. In 2020-2021 robbery levels had reduced by 73% when compared to 2016-2017, this reduced level has continued into 2021-2022.

Violence against the person offences saw a reduction of -81% over the comparative five years (2016-2017 – 2020-2021), with just 4 offences recorded in 2020-2021, this has increased slightly in 2021-2022 recording 6 offences.

This data and the YJB definitions of serious youth violence does not reflect the fact that for 2021-2022, 49% of all offences coming through the YOT were for violence against the person, primarily Section 39 and Section 47 assaults. This reflects the increase in interpersonal violence, public place violence, reported incidences in schools and a noticeable increase in young women committing offences of violence.

Alongside this, the concerns of exploitation, specifically Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE), County Lines (CL) and gang association continue to be managed through the city-wide Exploitation Hub and the Partnership Gang Forum. This has enabled the continued mapping and identification of young people at risk, ensuring appropriate pathways of support are in place. In addition, using the Contextualised Safeguarding framework, locations, potential perpetrators, disruption actions and city trends are also identified. The recent Wolverhampton Partnership Youth Gang report April 2022 indicated:

- There were currently 12 young people identified with being affiliated with gangs in Wolverhampton, however a total of 67 have been discussed since the gang forum started in December 2020
- Of the current cohort, 6 (50%) are currently open to Multi-agency Criminal Exploitation (MACE) meetings; 1 at Serious risk, 5 are Significant Risk and 1 is awaiting their initial MACE meeting. A further 3 were previously open to MACE but their risks have reduced and are now closed. The remaining 3 have been deemed 'At Risk' after receiving an Exploitation toolkit but did not meet MACE threshold.

### **The Violence Prevention Subgroup:**

There are already strong partnership responses to violence prevention in Wolverhampton driven by the Tackling Violence and Exploitation Strategy, delivery of which is overseen jointly by Safer Wolverhampton Partnership (SWP) and Wolverhampton Safeguarding Together (WST). This strategy sets out Wolverhampton's ambition to take a public health approach to addressing the causes of violence in their entirety to deliver change at population level. Delivery against this strategy has included activity such as a contextual safeguarding review and development of Wolverhampton's Partnership Exploitation Hub.

In order to build on existing successes, ensure that there is a robust violence prevention offer within Wolverhampton and ensure that Wolverhampton is compliant against the new serious violence duty, a new violence prevention subgroup has been established to progress the below activity:

- Mapping of current violence prevention/support provision.

- Mechanism for monitoring, reviewing, and implementing (where appropriate) best practice around violence prevention and reduction.
- Review of area specific data and services with a focus on prevention and early intervention.
- Oversee production of a violence needs assessment and annually refreshed problem profile.
- Ensure that the Serious Violence and Exploitation Strategy is reflective of the needs assessment.
- Action plans and performance frameworks to be developed to monitor delivery of the strategy.

The subgroup will report into SWP and provide regular updates to WST and YOT Management Board. YOT will make a significant contribution to this group and will continue to implement its response to serious youth violence and exploitation will include:

- Delivery of early prevention via DIVERT and Creating Safety Project
- Strong risk management and disruption responses to protect young people and communities
- YOT and Police DYO (Deter Youth Offenders) scheme to be expanded to include all young people committing offences of violence
- Ensuring interventions around weapons, exploitation and gangs are fit for purpose
- Recognise the impact of trauma and latent vulnerability for both victims and perpetrators in our intervention responses
- Develop our CAMHS forensic response to young people involved in the cycle of violence
- Embedding the use of Structured Assessment of Violent Youth (SAVRY) to inform assessments and interventions.
- Promote participation and young people's involvement in the responses, including lived experienced mentors.
- Develop a collaboration with key community organisations and third sector

Serious Violence (five-year trend):		2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	% Change	% Change
								2016/17-2020/21	2016/17-2021/22
Offence									
Robbery	Attempt Robbery (6)	7	3	5	3	3	2		
	Assault with intent to rob (6)	2	0		3	0			
	Robbery (6)	31	39	19	6	8	8		
	<b>Robbery Total</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>-73%</b>	<b>-75%</b>
Violence Against the Person	Air weapon - possession with intent to cause fear of violence	2	1	1					
	Damage / destroy property with intent to endanger life	1							
	Attempt Murder (8)	0		1					
	Murder (8)	0		2					
	Possess an imitation firearm with intent to cause fear of violence (5)	2	2						
	Possess a firearm with intent to endanger life (7)	1			1		1		
	Section 18 - grievous bodily harm with intent (7)	2	1	1	1	3	1		
	Section 18 - wounding with intent (7)	7	2	6		1			
	Public Order – Other (5)	0	2	1			1		
	Rape of a female (8)			1					
	Violent Disorder (5)	4	1	1					
	Wound / inflict grievous bodily harm without intent (6)	2	1	1	1		3		
<b>Violence Against the Person Total</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>-81%</b>	<b>-71%</b>	
Drugs Offences	Concerned in supply of heroin (6)		1				1		
	Possess with intent to supply a controlled drug of Class A - Cocaine (6)		3	1	1	1	1		
	Possess with intent to supply a controlled drug of Class A - Crack Cocaine (6)	2	4	4	3		2		
	Possess with intent to supply a controlled drug of Class A - Heroin (6)	1	6	5	4		2		
	Possess with intent to supply a controlled drug of Class A - Other (6)	4			1				
	<b>Drugs Total</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>-86%</b>	<b>-14%</b>
<b>Overall Total</b>		<b>68</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>-76%</b>	<b>-68%</b>



## Restorative Justice & Victims

In July 2021 an audit tool was created to look at the work of the YOT in respect to victims and restorative justice. In August of the same year an internal audit was undertaken, and a number of areas identified for action. There was a significant overhaul in the administrative aspects of the Restorative Justice Unit (RJU) in particular with some of the actions arising including;

- All victim related paperwork/documents to be saved on individual IP ChildView records on notes and attachments.
- Review RJU involvement in updating the RJ Module on ASSETPLUS i.e Priorities for Repairing Harm section
- Referral Reports / PSR reports / ASSETPLUS & corresponding Victim Reports gatekept by the same manager to ensure RJU & victim represented within reports and assessments.
- RJU direct involvement in DIVERT – Joint Decision-Making Panel to ensure victim identification/contact/recording and co-ordination with case managers will improve communication and involvement in contract/intervention plans.

The benefits of the above and other measures ensured that there was recorded evidence of the work within RJU and, most importantly, that the victims voice could be heard throughout the process and the wider YOT became more consistently adherent to the victims' code.

HMIP inspection of Wolverhampton YOT (published Feb 2022) saw the fruit of the work of the RJU, the improvements as a consequence of auditing, and the feedback provided by volunteer Community Panel Members (CPM). Inspectors commented that the YOT has an *'impressive restorative justice unit, which takes a holistic approach to working with children and victims.*

HMIP also fed back on an area requiring improvement pertaining to the assessment of young people in relation to any risk they may pose to specific victims, how and who would address that risk and any considerations appropriate in terms of contingency planning. Prior to the inspection, and within the NS3 2021-2022 action plan, some of these areas were identified for input and this will continue in this year's action plan. External and in-house training, resources, supervision and team meetings have already been utilised to this end and will continue going forward.

Volunteer Community Panel members (CPM) also provided their views and there was a consensus amongst them regarding the positive improvements and delivery of services throughout the pandemic and thereafter. This included the pre-panel discussions with case managers, facilitation of virtual panels with home support, the increase in work with victims that made the difference to conversations CPMs had with young people at panel, and the increased diversity of volunteers which better represented the community in which they serve. In recent months volunteers, most young people and their families have also appreciated the work undertaken in transitioning from virtual to face to face panels.

The challenges going forward include;

- Further embedding of face-to-face panels and the provision of consistent CPMs at review/final panels.
- Development and training to achieve 'co-created' contracts. Moving in a collaborative way to a more co-creational way of reaching mutually agreeable 'contracts' between panel and YPs and Case Managers which are reflective of that YPs journey through their Referral Order, whilst still remaining cognisant of the 'victim voice'

- Identify routes to encourage male volunteers.
- Work on plans to offer community-based panels.
- Management oversight to support case managers effective risk assessment to actual and potential victims, utilisation of the Assetplus matrix and appropriate contingency planning .

## 9. National standards (NS)



The Initial self-assessment was completed in July 2020 and each NS has had an action plan “owned” by a specific YOT Operational Manager and YMB member. Our HMIP inspection recognised that our *“Board members were fully involved with the Youth Justice Board (YJB) National Standards self-assessment and were allocated roles in specific areas of practice”*. (Pg8). All NS action plans have been reviewed on a quarterly basis with the YMB leads and have been presented to YMB for monitoring and oversight.

### Standard 1 – Out of Court Disposals (OOC)

Initial self-assessment judged both the strategic and operational practice as good. Our recent HMIP inspection has rated OOC assessment “good”, planning “good”, implementation and delivery as “outstanding” and reviewing as “good”.

#### Key areas identified in Initial NS1 Action Plan:

- To assist in the de-criminalisation of CYPIC
- Trauma informed practice is embedded within assessment process and interventions using ARC framework.
- Revise/review Police/YOT protocol to incorporate Covid-19 restrictions for OOC
- Improve victim involvement in OOC work

#### Progress against key areas:

- ✓ Development of DIVERT scheme has radically changed the provision of OOC with over 80% of young people receiving Outcome 22.
- ✓ Reduced number of CYPIC entering formal CJS, currently 8% of YOT cohort.
- ✓ Protocol and working agreements with Police finalised
- ✓ RJU representation at all JDP and significant increase in victim contact
- ✓ Assetplus and bespoke packages of support incorporating trauma informed practice and ARC.

### **NS1 action plan priorities going forward:**

- Assessments of children's risk of harm to others need to identify more clearly who is at risk and the nature of the risk.
- Contingency planning needs to be evident so that the arrangements for managing a child's risk of harm to others is clear.
- Embed and evaluate the impact of DIVERT

### **Standard 2 – at court**

Initial self-assessment judged both the strategic and operational practice as good.

#### **Key areas identified in Initial NS2 Action Plan:**

- Review and agree regional Black Country Youth Court protocol.
- Monitor the quality of court reports and the use of developmentally sensitive language.
- Establish court process/mechanism to re-divert YP eligible for OOCB back into the DIVERT scheme.
- Promote support available for parents and carers during pre-sentence and court stages.
- Implement 'Common Platform' within the admin team – lead by HMCTS

#### **Progress against key areas:**

- ✓ Black Country Youth Court protocol agreed
- ✓ Quality Assurance of reports benched marked and outcome evidence the use of developmental sensitive language, particularly around young person's experience and impact of trauma and exploitation.
- ✓ Mechanism in place to divert young people back into the OOCB (DIVERT) scheme.
- ✓ Court information leaflet completed.
- ✓ Wolverhampton YOT ready for the roll out of the new Common Platform, which will assist in obtaining court updates.

### **NS2 action plan priorities going forward :**

- Analysis of pre-sentencing report (PSR)/Outcome strike rates
- Understanding disproportionality in court and supporting young people from Black, Asian and other ethnic minority groups through the process.
- Improvement in parental engagement in assessment and at court
- Improve the screening and process for referrals back to JDP.

### **Standard 3 – in the community:**

Initial self-assessment judged both the strategic and operational practice as good. Our recent HMIP inspection has rated court disposals assessment "good", planning "requires improvement", implementation and delivery as "outstanding" and reviewing as "good".

#### **Key areas identified in Initial NS3 Action Plan:**

- Management oversight and decision making is clearly evidenced

- Improve the quality of ASSETPLUS reviews
- Victim work is appropriately evidenced and effectively utilised throughout the YOT
- Health Team staff utilise health consultations to identify health needs from the onset, ensure a co-ordinated response across health provision
- YOT intervention offers to fully align with the ARC trauma informed framework, with a specific focus on offences of violence, weapon related offending and gang/exploitation support
- Promote the young person's voice within practice
- Refresh of written information/leaflets for YP and families on core YOT services.

**Progress against key areas:**

- ✓ HMIP outcome reported *“the quality of management oversight in both post-court and out-of-court cases was a significant strength”*. pg6
- ✓ Quality of reviewing judged as good by HMIP and extensive team training developed covering ASSETPLUS quality improvement.
- ✓ HMIP reported *“Health provision to the YOT is good and staff consider the health needs of all of the children and decide who is best to work with them”* (pg6)  
Requirement to ensure health provision is fully embedded in JDP.
- ✓ YOT intervention reviewed and Intervention Index being developed with a range of activities matched to ARC framework.
- ✓ Evidence of a strong participation offer within the YOT
- ✓ All leaflets refreshed.

**NS3 action plan priorities going forward :**

- When assessing a child's risk of harm to others, staff need to identify and analyse more clearly the risks that the child poses, including who is at risk and the nature of that risk.
- Staff do not regularly take account of a child's diversity needs when completing assessments.
- The concerns and risks related to actual and potential victims are not consistently considered when planning to address the risk of harm to others.
- Staff do not consistently set out the contingency arrangements to manage the child's safety and wellbeing and their risk of harm to others in the cases inspected.
- Continued development of interventions.

**Standard 4 – in secure accommodation**

Initial self-assessment judged all sections in the strategic and operational practice as good, apart from the section below that were rated as required improvement:

- The environment that children live in is rehabilitative and safe and one where there is a culture that enables children to develop, grow and learn
- Communication between professionals is in line with Youth Custody Service requirements
- Services, plans and interventions take account of diverse needs and promote equality

### **Key areas identified in Initial NS4 Action Plan:**

- Ensure ASSETPLUS assessments are completed in line with YCS recommendations.
- To ensure that children are protected and feel safe.
- Improve resettlement outcomes for young people in the secure estate.
- Review members of the YOT Resettlement Panels.
- Review the EHCP review process for young people entering and leaving custody.
- Review YOT/Social Care processes and practices for young people remanded into secure accommodation.
- Provide additional case management support for all YP within the Secure Estate.
- Promotion of the YOT and secure estate Equality and Diversity Policies.

### **Progress against key areas:**

- ✓ Comprehensive custody and resettlement policy guidance launched, which includes the social care process and commitments to accommodation
- ✓ Agreement reached with SENSTART for EHCP's to be reviewed prior to release
- ✓ Resettlement Support panels now have representation from the secure estate, SENSTART, CAMHS and Social Care
- ✓ Resettlement Support Panels ensuring secure estate are making available appropriate interventions and preparation for release. Additional YOT resources identified to work with young people in custody.
- ✓ Safeguarding Performance – Key indicators (Werrington) monitored by YMB, Resettlement and Safeguarding managers from Werrington attend YMB. YOT operational manager on Werrington Safeguarding board. Children Services Safeguarding lead on YMB works closely with YOT to escalate concerns. Individual safeguarding concerns escalated to Werrington Safeguarding Manager, YOT social workers actively involved in custody review meetings and oversight maintained via Resettlement Support Panels

### **NS4 action plan priorities going forward :**

- Continued improvement in ASSETPLUS and the use of YJAF
- Promotion of Secure Estate Equality & Diversity Policies
- Use of appropriate escalation measures to address concerns within the secure estate
- Ensuring Resettlement Support Plans are effective multi-agency forums to co-ordinate the support for young people
- Education provision and EHCP reviews and SEN support in custody.

### **Standard 5 – On transition and resettlement:**

Initial self-assessment judged all sections in the strategic and operational practice as good, apart from the section below that were rated as required improvement:

- Is the plan subject to regular or joint review?

HMIP inspection has rated Resettlement policy and provision as “outstanding”

### **Key areas identified in Initial NS5 Action Plan:**

- Transition to adulthood (T2A) probation process to have a clear transition / recording process that can be replicated within a plan
- Establish an operational relationship with CYPIC services to ensure transition relationships are in place
- Understand the experience of our young people when their placement changes, and in turn the YOT supervising them does

### **Progress against key areas:**

- ✓ Internal processes for T2A reviewed and revised. Regional T2A meeting convened between YOT and NPS.
- ✓ Joint action plan in place with CYPIC service. Practice champions identified in YOT and CYPIC teams and a 6-weekly review of all CYPIC involved with the YOT.
- ✓ Transition within the secure estate to the adult estate supported by both YOT and NPS

### **NS4 action plan priorities going forward :**

- T2A to have a clear transition/recording process
- 18-25 mental health transitions, establishment of 18-25 community hubs to support transitions.

## **10. Challenges, risks and issues**

- Disproportionality within our cohort of young people from an ethnicity perspective and the continued lived experience challenges facing young people of colour.
- Escalation and overrepresentation of young people with special educational needs and Educational and Health Care Plans (EHCP) into the CJS
- Increase in youth violence and exploitation within Wolverhampton and the continued need for a public health response to the systemic issues facing young people and families within the city, especially during a “cost of living crisis” and the ongoing impact of COVID on the mental wellbeing of children and families.
- Continued commitment to appropriately funding the YOT and the broader youth justice partnership and ensuring local youth justice services are, from a governance perspective, still able to be delivered in the best possible way for the local population.

## **11. Service improvement plan**

The YOT service improvement plan for 2022-2023 will include specific actions to address the HMIP recommendations, as well as specific practice areas carried forward from the 2021-2022 plan and new priority practice actions:

### **HMIP recommendations:**

- YMB to make sure that all YOT children with SEND, and especially those with an EHCP, have access to high quality education and training services that are matched to needs.
- YMB to ensure that staff are appropriately trained and confident in having conversations to understand black, Asian and other minority ethnic children's experiences in order to improve the quality and suitability of service provision.
- Service manager to improve the quality of contingency planning in all cases, when managing and mitigating a child's risk of harm to others.

### **Actions to carry forward into the YOT Service improvement Plan:**

- Building upon the work with Children and Young People in Care (CYPIC) to further reduce their risks of criminalisation.
- Improving the educational engagement and outcomes for all young people at the YOT
- Extension of the whole family / carer offer within the service, with a specific focus on supporting families with black and mixed heritage boys.
- Addressing areas of disproportionality and promoting wider youth justice partnership engagement to reduce areas of significant disproportionality.

### **New priority practice actions 2022-2023**

- Continued delivery of the DIVERT scheme to further promote the decriminalisation of young people and divert them from the CJS. Evaluate impact and outcomes from the scheme with regards outcomes for young people, reoffending and First time Entrants rates including a cost avoidance analysis.
- Expansion of prevention offer and the continued delivery and development of BoT and CSP.
- Ensure the integrated health offer is fully embedded in the JDP process to promote the commitment that a child will not enter the CJS as a result of an unmet health need.
- Restorative practice and the voice of the victim being central to JDP and statutory intervention promoting opportunities for mediation.
- Co-ordinated and proactive response to youth violence, both strategically and operationally, promoting a public health response by all youth justice partnerships.
- Continue our work within the Exploitation Hub, CEMOG and the Partnership Gang Forum to promote the early identification of exploitation and gangs' risks and develop and deliver appropriate responses, co-ordinated with communities and the youth justice partnership.

- Ensuring all our work, embodies the child first offender second principles, with a specific focus on our continued development of trauma informed practice, case formulation and the delivery of interventions within the Attachment, Regulations and Competency framework (ARC)
- Development of a comprehensive Interventions Index and delivery of creative activities to support our Child First Offender Second and ARC approaches.
- Empower young people to share their views and genuinely have an influence on service design and delivery in the future through our participation offer, with a specific focus on Black and Mixed Heritage boys and young women.
- Continue to improve the experience of young people in transition to National Probation Service, including those in custody and other youth justice partnerships, specifically Leaving Care and adult mental health.
- Workforce Development – continue to invest in appropriate training, encourage staff creativity and input of future practice developments. HMIP commented that:
 

*“Training is prioritised and staff are encouraged to find new ways of working with children. The YOT has considered the views of staff regarding their working conditions, practice skills, and appropriately adapted their learning and development to ensure wherever possible the impact of Covid-19 has been minimised” (pg8)*
- YMB development, as reflect in the HMIP report, to ensure members have appropriate levels of knowledge of the profile, needs and experiences of the children to ensure that services are delivered which effectively support their needs.

## 12. Evidence-based practice and innovation

Our recent HMIP inspection reported that:

*“There is evidence that the service is continually learning and uses research to develop the services it provides.” ..... “The service manager is committed to delivering services that are research-led and evidence-based”. (pg8)*

At the heart of all our practice developments and innovations remains current research, academic insights and policy guidance’s. Two examples include:



### **Trauma Informed Practice Project 2018 – On-going**

In 2018 Wolverhampton YOT participated in the Alex Chard research leading to the publication of “Punishing Abuse” identifying the level of trauma experienced by our young people. We worked with Betsey De Thierry from the Trauma Recovery Centre (TRC) and with a Social Worker Consultant, Steve Bore, and developed a framework for trauma informed practice in Wolverhampton. Children Services funded a whole team training schedule in 2019-2020, including an introduction to attachment, developmental and rational trauma; ARC model,



specialist trauma-based screening tools, case formulation, intervention planning and delivery. A practice working group reviewed all practice processes and adapted them to work within this new framework, including the development of all interventions to map against the ARC model. Refresher training, staff consultations and continued practice development has been ongoing. The recent HMIP commented:

*“The trauma-informed approach is reflected in the range of interventions available. These were personalised to best meet the needs of the child”. (pg8)*



Following working with the Centre for Justice Innovation in 2019 (6 YOS identified in the country) and with Cheshire YOS as part of the YJB pathfinder programme, we have developed our Divert Scheme, which is based on Child First principles of diversion and proportionate intervention. These are grounded in labelling theory (O’Brien, 2019); the idea that the more contact a young person has with criminal justice services the more likely they are to reoffend. Tyrell et al (2017) found that diversion programmes were effective in reducing recidivism compared to when no further action was taken. Haines and Case (2018) found that a focus on the child’s unmet needs is seen to provide the best chance of reducing recidivism. This is in line with the Youth Justice Boards child first, offender second focus.

### 13. Looking forward

The future is bright for Wolverhampton YOT, it has a clear vision and a strategy to achieve its strategic and practice ambitions. It is well supported by the City of Wolverhampton Council and its Children Services. The wider youth justice partnership is engaged and committed to the same vision, most admirably evidenced in the joint work with the Police to develop and launch DIVERT.

The opportunities and support will be available for our children, but it must be acknowledged that there will be challenges. The impact of COVID; the rise of youth violence and the risks of exploitation; combined with the city’s levels of deprivation. In addition, the education and learning needs identified for our young people will require a team committed, dedicated, and motivated to not only support our young people to improve their outcomes but also agitate and advocate for system change, where system change is needed.

### 14. Sign off, submission and approval

Chair of YJS Board	Bal Kaur
Signature	
Date	13.6.22

Appendix 1 Outline of full board membership, including attendance, job title of the board member and dates of board meetings

NAME	STATUTORY AGENCY	ROLE	20/10/21	26.1.22	27.4.22	29.06.22
Bal Kaur	PUBLIC HEALTH (Chair)	Consultant in Public Health		y	y	
Simon Inglis	POLICE (Chair)	Si West Midlands Police	y	y	y	
Clare Reardon	PUBLIC HEALTH	Senior Public Health Specialist	y	y	y	
Hazel Hawkins-Dady	HEALTH	0 - 19 Manager	y		y	
Donna Hamilton	HEALTH (CAHMS)	Regional Manager				
Mags Court	HEALTH (CAHMS)	Commissioning Group	y	y	y	
James Reeley	HEALTH (CAHMS)	CAHMS Service Manager	y			
Hannah Pawley	LOCAL AUTHORITY (SWP)	Community Safety Manager	y			
Celia Payne	LOCAL AUTHORITY	YOT Service Manager	y	y	y	
Niginder Kaur	LOCAL AUTHORITY (Connexions )	Lead Practioner NEET		y	y	
Rachel King	LOCAL AUTHORITY	Head of Specialist Support	y	y	y	
Sonia Mahey	LOCAL AUTHORITY	Service Manager Safeguarding/Exploitation	y	y		
Lynsey Kelly	LOCAL AUTHORITY SWP	Community Safety Manager		y		
Darren Martindale	LOCAL AUTHORITY	Virtual School Head	y	y	y	
Kate Luchessi	PROBATION	Head of Probation	y	y		
	<b>OTHER AGENCY</b>					
Steve Dodds	VOLUNTARY SECTOR	Wolverhampton Voluntary Sector Council	y	y	y	
Sarah Mellor	WERRINGTON YOI	Head of Case Management	y			
Helen Kilgallon	SUBSTANCE MISUSE SERVICE	Operations Manager	y			
Parmajit Bains Singh	YOUTH BENCH CHAIR			y		
Deb Thompson	WOLVERHAMPTON HOMES	Head of Homeless Services	Y	y		
Catherine Draycott	The Royal Wolverhampton Trust		Y	y		
	<b>GUESTS</b>					
Winston Carnegie	WERRINGTON YOI	Head of Safeguarding	y	y		
Amanda Chamber	Werrington YOI	Werrington Resettlement Manager		Y		
Amanda Sherrard	LOCAL AUTHORITY	Senior Analyst	Y	y	Y	
Lucy Wedge	LOCAL AUTHORITY	Analyst			Y	
Balraj Juss	LOCAL AUTHORITY	Service Development Officer	Y			
Julie Hancox	LOCAL AUTHORITY	Business Support Administrator	y		Y	
John Denley	PUBLIC HEATH	Director of Public Heath	Y			
Emily Hacket	PUBLIC HEATH	Senior Public Health Specialist	y			
Gill Mamps	YOUTH JUSTICE BOARD	Head of Innovation & Engagement	y			

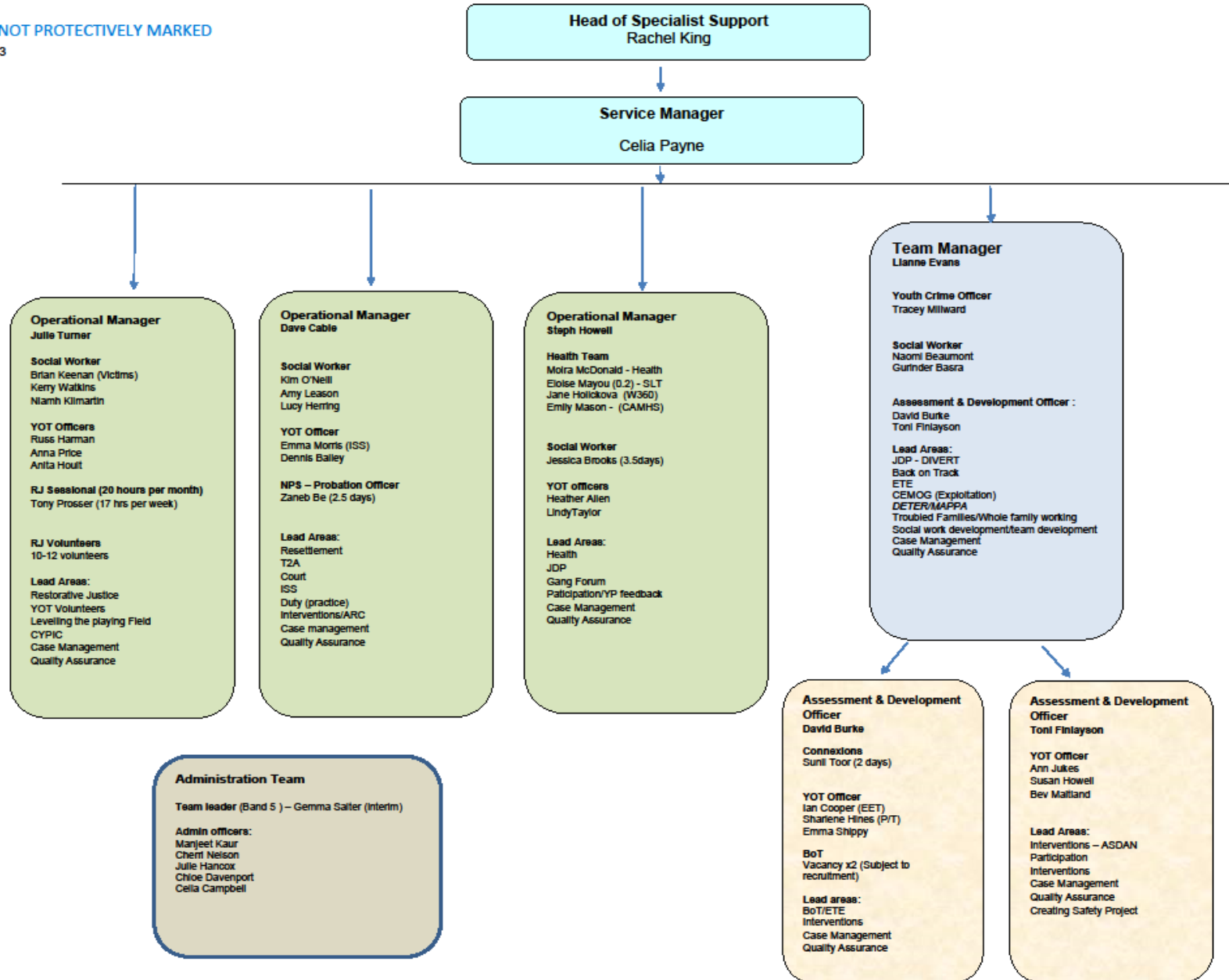
Appendix 2 – Service Structure Chart should include details of the staff roles in the YJS and the reporting arrangements for the Head of Service. Information on the links to the data analyst should also be included. There should be a separate table in the appendix recording the ethnicity, sex and known disability of staff.

### Staffing analysis 2021-22

B8: Staffing of the YOT by gender and ethnicity; No. of individual people

Ethnicity	Managers Strategic		Managers Operational		Practitioners		Administrative		Sessional		Student		Referral Order Panel Volunteer		Other Volunteer		Total	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Asian								1						2			0	3
Black				1	2	3		2	1					5			3	11
Mixed														1			0	1
White		1	2	3	3	17		3					2	10			7	34
Any other ethnic group					1												1	0
Not known					4												4	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>49</b>

3 members of staff have a recorded disability.



<b>CITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON COUNCIL</b>	<b>Meeting of the City Council 2 November 2022</b>
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<b>Report title</b>	Code of Corporate Governance	
<b>Referring body</b>	Governance and Ethics Committee – 7 July 2022 Audit and Risk Committee – 25 July 2022	
<b>Councillor to present report</b>	Councillor John Reynolds	
<b>Wards affected</b>	All Wards	
<b>Cabinet Member with lead responsibility</b>	Councillor Paula Brookfield Governance and Equalities	
<b>Accountable director</b>	David Pattison, Chief Operating Officer	
<b>Originating service</b>	Governance	
<b>Accountable employee</b>	David Pattison	Chief Operating Officer
	Tel	01902 553840
	Email	<a href="mailto:David.Pattison@wolverhampton.gov.uk">David.Pattison@wolverhampton.gov.uk</a>
<b>Report has been considered by</b>	Audit and Risk Committee	25 July 2022
	Governance and Ethics Committee	7 July 2022

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**Recommendations for decision:**

The Council is recommended to:

1. Approve the revised Code of Corporate Governance.
2. Authorise the Chief Operating Officer to publicise the document and add it to the Constitution.

## **1.0 Purpose**

1.1 To approve the Code of Governance.

## **2.0 Background**

2.1 On 7 July 2022 the Governance and Ethics Committee considered a report on Corporate Code of Corporate Governance.

2.2 Copies of the report have been supplied to Councillors and can also be accessed online on the Council's website [here](#).

2.3 Governance and Ethics Committee recommended to Council that it:

1. Considers and approves the revised Code of Corporate Governance.
2. Authorises the Chief Operating Officer to publicise the document and add it to the Constitution.

2.4 Governance and Ethics Committee noted:

1. The Audit and Risk Committee will consider the revised Code of Corporate Governance.

## **3.0 Financial implications**

3.1 The financial implications are detailed in the Governance and Ethics Committee report of 7 July 2022.

## **4.0 Legal implications**

4.1 The legal implications are detailed in the Governance and Ethics Committee report of 7 July 2022.

## **5.0 Equalities implications**

5.1 The equalities implications are detailed in the Governance and Ethics Committee report of 7 July 2022.

## **6.0 All other Implications**

6.1 All other implications are detailed in the Governance and Ethics Committee report of 7 July 2022.

## **7.0 Schedule of background papers**

7.1 [Agenda for Governance and Ethics Committee on Thursday, 7th July, 2022, 2.00 pm :: Wolverhampton City Council \(moderngov.co.uk\)](#)

- 7.2 [Agenda for Audit and Risk Committee on Monday, 25th July, 2022, 2.00 pm :: Wolverhampton City Council \(moderngov.co.uk\)](#).

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<p>CITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON COUNCIL</p>	<h1>Governance and Ethics Committee</h1> <p>7 July 2022</p>
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<b>Report title</b>	Code of Corporate Governance	
<b>Cabinet member with lead responsibility</b>	Councillor Paula Brookfield Cabinet Member for Governance and Equalities	
<b>Accountable director</b>	David Pattison, Chief Operating Officer	
<b>Originating service</b>	Governance	
<b>Accountable employee</b>	David Pattison	Chief Operating Officer
	Tel	01902 553840
	Email	David.Pattison@wolverhampton.gov.uk
<b>Report to be/has been considered by</b>	Not applicable	

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### Recommendation for noting:

The Governance and Ethics Committee notes that:

1. The Audit and Risk Committee will consider the revised Code of Corporate Governance.

### Recommendation for decision:

The Governance and Ethics Committee recommends that Council:

1. Considers and approves the revised Code of Corporate Governance.
2. Authorises the Chief Operating Officer to publicise the document and add it to the Constitution.

## **1.0 Purpose**

- 1.1 This report outlines the improvements made to the Code of Corporate Governance. The updating of the Code of Corporate Governance is a recommendation from the Council's Annual Governance Statement in 2021. This Code has been updated to reflect changes in the guidance issued supporting the Code. It is recommended that the Council agrees to the addition of this document to the Constitution to ensure continuing lawfulness and effectiveness.

## **2.0 Background**

- 2.1 The Code of Corporate Governance (the Code) aims to set out the principles of good governance and to describe the arrangements in place that ensure the Council conducts its business in accordance with the law and proper standards, and that public money is safeguarded, properly accounted for and used economically, efficiently and effectively.
- 2.2 The document was developed in 2016 following the introduction of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) and the Society of Local Authority Chief Executive (SOLACE) framework and guidance, which recommends best practice for local authorities to follow. There are seven core principles, each of which is supported by sub-principles, to provide a governance framework.
- 2.3 Compliance with the Council's Code underpins the effectiveness of its systems of internal controls, and this in turn informs the Annual Governance Statement which accompanies its Annual Statement of Account.
- 2.4 The Code forms part of the Council's Constitution although it is not currently included within the published version.

## **3.0 Progress, options, discussion, etc.**

- 3.1 The Council is committed to maintaining robust arrangements for good governance and a periodic review of the Code was undertaken to ensure that:
- A. The Council was still complying with the core principles.
  - B. It reflected the most up to date ways in which the Council operates, including its expectations and standards.
- 3.2 At the same time the document was revised to ensure that it was more inclusive without losing any important detail. The revised version of the document has reduced in length, and includes a diagram showing the relationship between each of the seven core principles.
- 3.3 To ensure the document is used and can be easily understood it relies on signposting readers to other documents, so that they can easily find what they need without being distracted by unnecessary information.

3.4 The views of the Council's Head of Strategy, Head of Communications, Head of Audit and Director of Finance were taken into account and incorporated into the revised version of the Code.

3.5 Critically the Code can and will be reviewed and updated on a regular basis.

#### **4.0 Financial implications**

4.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

[AS/29062022/V]

#### **5.0 Legal implications**

5.1 Compliance with the Code of Corporate Governance supports the Council's review of the effectiveness of its system of internal controls as required by the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015. [SZ/29062022/P]

#### **6.0 Equalities implications**

6.1 There are no equalities implications arising from the recommendation in this report.

#### **7.0 All other Implications**

7.1 There are no other implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

#### **8.0 Schedule of background papers**

8.1 None.

#### **9.0 Appendices**

9.1 Appendix 1: Code of Corporate Governance.

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## Code of Corporate Governance

### INTRODUCTION

City of Wolverhampton Council is committed to demonstrating the highest standards of Corporate Governance. Good governance leads to good management, good performance, effective use of resources, good public involvement, and ultimately good outcomes.

The Council's Code of Corporate Governance ("the Code") comprises a range of documents, policies, procedures, cultures, and values and is the system through which the business of the Council is directed and controlled. The Code underpins the aim of achieving good governance.

### CORPORATE GOVERNANCE FRAMEWORK

The corporate governance framework of City of Wolverhampton Council is consistent with the principles of the CIPFA/SOLACE best practice framework *Delivering Good Governance in Local Government 2016* (the most up-to-date version). The following **seven core governance principles** ensure that we have high standards of good governance.

- A. Behaving with integrity, demonstrating strong commitment to ethical values, and respecting the rule of law.
- B. Ensuring openness and comprehensive stakeholder engagement.
- C. Defining outcomes in terms of sustainable economic, social, and environmental benefits.
- D. Determining the interventions necessary to optimise the achievement of the intended outcomes.
- E. Developing the entity's capacity, including the capability of its leadership and the individuals within it.
- F. Managing risks and performance through robust internal control and strong public financial management.
- G. Implementing good practices in transparency, reporting, and audit to deliver effective accountability.

The table below shows the relationship between each of the seven Principles in achieving the intended outcomes while acting in the public interest at all times.

Underpinning principles	Implementation principles
<i>Principles A and B permeate implementation of all other principles</i>	
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>A</b></p> Behaving with <b>integrity</b> , demonstrating strong commitment to <b>ethical values</b> , and <b>respecting the rule of law</b>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>G</b></p> Implementing good practice in transparency, reporting, and audit to deliver effective accountability
	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>C</b></p> Defining outcomes in terms of sustainable economic, social, and environmental benefits
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>B</b></p> Ensuring <b>openness</b> and comprehensive <b>stakeholder engagement</b>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>D</b></p> Determining the interventions necessary to optimise the achievement of the intended categories
	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>E</b></p> Developing the entity's capacity, including the capability of its leadership and the individuals within it
	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>F</b></p> Managing risks and performance through robust internal control and strong public financial management
<i>Improving governance requires a continuing, cyclical, process of evaluation and review. When reaching this point, continue from the top at principle G</i>	

## MONITORING AND REVIEW

The Council's commitment to good corporate governance includes the application, development, and maintenance of this Code. Each year the Code is reviewed, and an Annual Governance Statement made to accompany the Annual Accounts. The Statement includes an appraisal of the key measures in place to manage the Council's decision making and financial control, and it also provides details of where improvements need to be made. The Statement will be reported to the Governance & Ethics Committee and Audit and Risk Committee (whose respective Terms of Reference can be found [here](#) and [here](#)) who will also monitor progress towards any improvements which need to be made.

The following tables detail how the Council demonstrates its commitment to the seven core principles and indicates where more information can be obtained.

### CODE OF GOVERNANCE PRINCIPLE A

#### **Behaving with Integrity, demonstrating strong commitment to ethical values, and respecting the rule of law**

This core principle is supported by three supporting principles:

- Behaving with integrity
- Demonstrating strong commitment to ethical values
- Respecting the rule of law

<b>What the Council does</b>	<b>How it demonstrates this</b>
Ensures that the Council's leadership set and reinforces the tone of the organisation by creating a climate of openness, support, and respect.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protocol for Councillor/Officer relations</li> <li>• Code of Conduct for Councillors</li> <li>• Code of Conduct for Officers</li> <li>• Leadership Forum, Operational Manager Network, Officer Briefings, City People articles, News from the Chief Executive (by email and video)</li> <li>• Weekly Councillor update emails</li> <li>• City Plan</li> <li>• Our People Strategy</li> <li>• HR policy framework including all HR policies</li> <li>• Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion Strategy</li> </ul>
Defines the personal behaviours expected of Councillors and Officers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protocol for Councillor/Officer relations</li> <li>• Code of Conduct for Councillors</li> <li>• Detailed training on Code of Conduct</li> <li>• Planning Committee Code of Conduct for Councillors and Employees</li> <li>• Councillors Guide – Equalities</li> <li>• Councillor induction and regular training</li> </ul>
Puts in place arrangements to ensure that conflicts of interest are declared and if necessary, the Member/Officer does not participate in decision-making.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Revised Code of Conduct for Councillors and detailed training</li> <li>• Code of Conduct for Officers</li> <li>• Councillors and Officers Register of Interests</li> <li>• Whistle-blowing Policy &amp; Procedure</li> <li>• Councillor induction and regular training</li> </ul>
Develops and maintains shared values including values for both the organization and Officers and communicate these with	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Our City: Our Plan</li> <li>• Council's website</li> <li>• Our People Strategy</li> </ul>

Councillors, Officers, the community, and partners.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Engagement with residents and businesses including social media channels</li> </ul>
Uses the Council's shared values to act as a guide for decision making and as a basis for developing positive and trusting relationships within the authority.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Our City: Our Plan</li> <li>Our People Strategy</li> <li>Code of Conduct for Councillors</li> <li>Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy</li> <li>Code of Conduct for Officers</li> <li>Professional Conversations</li> </ul>
Maintain effective Governance & Ethics Committee.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Governance &amp; Ethics Committee Terms of Reference</li> </ul>
Has in place effective systems to enable staff and others to identify any potential wrongdoing and to protect staff should they raise areas of concern.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Whistleblowing policy</li> <li>Details of Monitoring Officer on website</li> <li>Monitoring officer accessible to officers</li> <li>Safe Space confidential reporting telephone and website for officers</li> </ul>
Ensures that professional advice on matters that have legal or financial implications is available in advance of decision making.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Senior lawyers and senior finance officers review reports going to member decision making meetings and all decisions must have legal and finance team approval before proceeding</li> <li>Lead Officers for projects have responsibility to engage with legal services and finance to ensure that legal and finance advice is secured for their projects</li> </ul>
<p><b>CODE OF GOVERNANCE PRINCIPLE B</b></p> <p><b>Ensuring openness and comprehensive stakeholder engagement</b></p> <p>This core principle is supported by three supporting principles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Openness</li> <li>Engaging comprehensively with institutional stakeholders</li> <li>Engaging with individual citizens and service users effectively</li> </ul>	
<b>What the Council does</b>	<b>How it demonstrates this</b>
Encourages all sections of the community and other stakeholders to participate in our work through public consultation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Notices in local newspapers</li> <li>Press releases for all local media</li> <li>Promotion and links to consultation via social media channels</li> <li>Stakeholder engagement channels</li> </ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Council's website</li> <li>• Consultation Guidance for Employees</li> <li>• Citizen Space consultation and engagement portal</li> </ul>
<p>Holds meetings in public unless there is to be discussion of matters of a confidential nature.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Council, Cabinet, Board, Committee and Scrutiny meetings are all held in public unless considering exempt or confidential information</li> <li>• Protocol for Webcasting of meetings (including arrangements made as per Covid-19 special requirements)</li> <li>• Protocol for Recording and Filming of Meetings and the Use of social media</li> <li>• Clear guidance that meetings must be open unless considering exempt or confidential information</li> </ul>
<p>Makes all information publicly available unless it is exempt by law.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Constitution</li> <li>• The Council's website</li> <li>• Forward Plan of Key Decisions</li> <li>• Webcast of various Meetings (including those made as per Covid-19 special requirements) in accordance with relevant Protocols</li> <li>• Information Governance policies and procedures including relating to Freedom of Information</li> <li>• Environmental Information Regulations procedures</li> <li>• WV Insight data and analytics)</li> </ul>
<p>Ensures that clear channels of communication are in place with all sections of the community and other stakeholders and put in place monitoring arrangements to ensure these operate effectively.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Forward Plan of Key Decisions</li> <li>• Consultation on significant policy changes including via the Council's consultation and engagement portal Citizen Space</li> <li>• Petitions Scheme</li> <li>• Public questions at Health &amp; Wellbeing Together meetings</li> <li>• Information Governance policies and procedures including relating to Freedom of Information</li> <li>• Environmental Information Regulations procedures</li> <li>• Whistleblowing policy</li> <li>• Regular surveys of residents to inform Council documents such as Our City: Our Plan</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Customer feedback including complaints and compliments</li> </ul>
Ensures that Officers are regularly consulted and invite comments from Officers on a wide range of issues.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consultation with Recognised Trade Unions</li> <li>• Regular Staff engagement including senior officers attending each Staff Equality Forum and a representative from each Staff Equality Forum attending Strategic Executive Board meetings</li> </ul>
<p><b>CODE OF GOVERNANCE PRINCIPLE C</b></p> <p><b>Defining outcomes in terms of sustainable economic, social and environmental benefits</b></p> <p>This core principle is supported by two supporting principles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Defining outcomes</li> <li>• Sustainable economic, social and environmental benefits</li> </ul>	
<b>What the Council does</b>	<b>How it demonstrates this</b>
Defines and promotes its purpose and vision.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Our City: Our Plan</li> <li>• Black Country Core Strategy 2011-2026</li> </ul>
Maintains up-to-date Purpose and Vision to reflect its financial position and other major policy changes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Annual review of Our City: Our Plan</li> </ul>
Works with its partners on an agreed common vision.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development and implementation of strategies and policies with partners (including but not limited to): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP)</li> <li>• Wolverhampton Health &amp; Well Board (Health &amp; Wellbeing Together)</li> <li>• One Wolverhampton</li> <li>• Wolverhampton Clinical Commissioning Group</li> <li>• Royal Wolverhampton Hospital Trust</li> <li>• Health Watch</li> <li>• West Midlands Combined Authority</li> <li>• University of Wolverhampton</li> <li>• Wolverhampton College</li> <li>• Wolverhampton Homes</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

<p>Communicates on a regular basis the Council's key performance data, achievements and financial position.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Annual Report</li> <li>• Finance, performance and risk reports to Cabinet and Scrutiny at least quarterly</li> <li>• A clear performance framework set out in Our City: Our Plan and agreed by Full Council</li> <li>• Annual Audit Letter</li> <li>• Council Tax Information Sheet for residents</li> </ul>
<p>Ensures that each service area reviews on a regular basis its objectives and priorities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Service Delivery Plans to ensure Our City: Our Plan outcomes are delivered</li> <li>• Performance deep dives at Strategic Executive Board monthly, underpinned by service performance framework</li> <li>• Review of contributions towards the Council's Net Zero Targets</li> </ul>
<p>Puts in place effective arrangements to identify and deal with failure in service delivery.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complaints routes and procedures (various) including reports to Scrutiny Board</li> <li>• Scrutiny Board and Panels</li> <li>• Internal Audit</li> <li>• Liaison with External Audit</li> <li>• Whistle blowing policy</li> <li>• Monitoring Officer reporting route</li> <li>• Regular performance and budget monitoring reports to Cabinet and Cabinet Resources Panel</li> </ul>
<p>Uses national benchmarking of value for money and needs based evidence to regularly review and shape corporate priorities and supporting financial plans effectively.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CIPFA Financial Management Code</li> <li>• External auditors Annual Report</li> </ul>
<p>Addresses the environmental impact of its policies, plans and decisions.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Environmental implications in all reports</li> </ul>
<p><b>CODE OF GOVERNANCE PRINCIPLE D</b></p> <p><b>Determining the interventions necessary to optimize the achievement of the intended outcomes</b></p> <p>This core principle is supported by three supporting principles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Determining interventions</li> <li>• Planning interventions</li> </ul>	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Optimising achievements of intended outcomes</li> </ul>	
What the Council does	How it demonstrates this
Defines and promote its purpose and vision.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Our City: Our Plan</li> </ul>
Reviews annually its purpose and vision to reflect its financial position and other major policy changes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Annual review of Our City: Our Plan</li> <li>Medium Term Financial Strategy</li> <li>Regular finance, performance and risk reports to Cabinet and Scrutiny to inform annual review</li> </ul>
Communicates on a regular basis the Council's key performance data, achievements and financial position.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Annual Reports of Scrutiny Board, Head of Internal Audit, Audit &amp; Risk Committee, Councillor Champions</li> <li>Regular finance, performance and risk reports to Cabinet and Scrutiny</li> <li>Updating reports to Cabinet</li> <li>External Auditors Annual Report</li> <li>Council Tax leaflets and letters to residents and online information</li> </ul>
Ensures risk management process is applied at all levels of the organisation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Risk Management Framework</li> <li>Strategic Risk Register reviewed on a regular basis by the Audit &amp; Risk Committee</li> <li>Update on Strategic Risk Register to each Audit &amp; Risk Committee</li> <li>Corporate and Departmental risk registers</li> <li>Risks considered as part of finance and performance reports to Cabinet and Scrutiny at least quarterly</li> </ul>
Ensures that each service area reviews on a regular basis its objectives and priorities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Departmental Service Plans/Business plans</li> <li>Service performance frameworks, with deep dives on performance at Strategic Executive Board on a monthly basis</li> </ul>
Puts in place effective arrangements to identify and deal with failure in service delivery.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Complaints routes and procedures (various)</li> <li>Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules</li> <li>Whistleblowing Policy</li> <li>Monitoring Officer reporting route</li> </ul>

Ensures resilience with regard to continuity of service in the event of unforeseen events.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Corporate and departmental business continuity and disaster recovery plans and arrangements</li> </ul>
<p><b>CODE OF GOVERNANCE PRINCIPLE E</b></p> <p><b>Developing the Council's capacity, including the capability of its leadership and the individuals within it.</b></p> <p>This core principle is supported by two supporting principles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Developing the Council's capacity</li> <li>• Developing the capability of the Council's leadership and other individuals</li> </ul>	
<b>What the Council does</b>	<b>How it demonstrates this</b>
Sets out in clear terms how the respective roles and responsibilities of the Cabinet and of the Cabinet members are allocated between the Leader, Cabinet and Council Officers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Constitution</li> <li>• Protocol for Councillor/Officer relations</li> </ul>
Sets out in clear terms the general responsibilities of Councillors and senior Officers and how they perform non-executive functions such as development control.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Responsibility for Functions (Part 3) and delegation information within or arising from the Constitution</li> <li>• Forward Plan of key Decisions</li> </ul>
Sets out how decisions are made, and which decisions are reserved to the Full Council. Determine a scheme of delegation to Chief Officers, including those decisions which are not included in their delegated powers and are reserved to Council or Cabinet	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scheme of Delegation to Officers (Part 3) within the Constitution</li> <li>• Articles of the Constitution (Part 2) within the Constitution</li> <li>• Forward Plan of Key Decisions</li> </ul>
Makes the Chief Executive responsible and accountable for all aspects of operational management.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Chief Executive is designated Head of Paid Service for the Authority</li> </ul>
Makes the Director of Finance (as section 151 officer) responsible for ensuring that appropriate advice is given on all financial matters, for keeping proper financial records and accounts, and for maintaining an effective system of internal financial control.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Section 151 Officer responsibilities (Part 3) within the Constitution</li> </ul>

<p>Adopts a protocol for relationships between Councillors and Officers which ensures proper and effective relationships.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protocol for Councillor/Officer relations</li> <li>• Staff induction</li> <li>• Code of Conduct for Councillors</li> <li>• Councillor induction and other training</li> <li>• Code of Conduct for Officers</li> <li>• Officer induction documents and sharing of information</li> </ul>
<p>Makes the Chief Legal Officer (as Monitoring Officer) responsible for the Council Constitution and for ensuring that agreed procedures are followed and that all applicable statutes and regulations are complied with.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitoring Officer responsibilities specified in the Constitution</li> </ul>
<p>Sets out the terms and conditions for the remuneration of Councillors and Officers.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Constitution</li> <li>• Council's Pay Policy Statement</li> <li>• Councillors Allowances Scheme</li> <li>• HR Policies and compliance with Local Government Terms and Conditions</li> </ul>
<p>Ensures that service delivery is effectively monitored.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Performance framework aligned to Our City: Our Plan, with regular reports to Cabinet and Scrutiny</li> <li>• Service level performance frameworks, with monthly performance deep dives at Strategic Executive Board</li> <li>• Regular reports to Cabinet, Governance &amp; Ethics Committee, Scrutiny board and its six panels</li> </ul>
<p>Consults widely on its vision, strategic plans and priorities and take into account the views of the local community and key stakeholders.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consultation on Our City: Our Plan, Medium Term Financial Strategy</li> <li>• Consultation on major policy developments via the Council's consultation and engagement portal Citizen Space</li> <li>• Statutory consultations</li> </ul>
<p>Ensures that when working in partnership that Councillors are clear about their legal responsibilities and liabilities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advice given to Councillors by Senior Officers</li> </ul>
<p>Ensures that where the Council enters into a partnership there is a written agreement between the parties clearly setting out the</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Head of Law to arrange contract preparations</li> </ul>

roles and responsibilities, including responsibilities for staffing and funding.	
Provides induction programme for Councillors and Officers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Member Handbook</li> <li>• Councillors Development Programme</li> <li>• Councillors Online Learning</li> <li>• Officer induction documents and sharing of information</li> <li>• Councillor Induction training</li> </ul>
Ensures statutory officers have the resources and support to effectively perform their roles.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Section 151 Officer and the Monitoring Officer have a statutory right to be provided with sufficient support and so are able to raise the issue formally if they consider that they do not have adequate resources to enable them to undertake their roles</li> </ul>
Assesses the learning and development needs of Officers and Councillors and make a commitment to meet those needs and develop required skills.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Performance Management and Development arrangements</li> <li>• Professional Conversations</li> <li>• Our People Strategy</li> <li>• Councillors Development arrangements</li> </ul>
Identifies leaders of the future.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Leadership and Management Development including talent management and aspiring managers</li> <li>• Equality, diversity and inclusion initiatives</li> <li>• Deputies for officer roles</li> <li>• Our People Strategy</li> </ul>
Provides support for Councillors and Officers who are Directors of Council companies.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advice given as required/necessary</li> <li>• Training for Councillors</li> </ul>
<p><b>CODE OF GOVERNANCE PRINCIPLE F</b></p> <p><b>Managing risks and performance through robust internal control and strong public financial management</b></p> <p>This core principle is supported by five supporting principles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Managing risk</li> <li>• Managing performance</li> <li>• Robust internal control</li> <li>• Managing data</li> <li>• Strong public financial management</li> </ul>	

What the Council does	How it demonstrates this
Maintains an effective scrutiny function which is aimed at improvement and service delivery.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overview and Scrutiny Arrangements as outlined in Article 7 of the Constitution</li> </ul>
Maintains effective arrangements for recording decisions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Forward Plan of Key Decisions</li> <li>• Record of Key Decisions</li> <li>• Minutes of all Council meetings</li> <li>• Protocol for Recording and Filming of Meetings and the Use of social media</li> <li>• Protocol for webcasting</li> </ul>
Puts in place arrangements to ensure that decisions are not affected by conflict of interest.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Member and Officer Codes of Conduct</li> <li>• Member and Officers Register of Interests</li> <li>• Support to officers and Councillors who are directors of companies</li> </ul>
Maintains an effective Audit Committee that is independent of executive and scrutiny functions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Audit &amp; Risk Committee Terms of Reference (Part 8) within the Constitution</li> <li>• Two Independent Councillors appointed to the Audit &amp; Risk Committee</li> </ul>
Ensures that an effective and accessible complaints procedure is in place.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complaints routes and procedures (various) and guidance on website</li> <li>• Policy on Management of Unreasonable Complainant Behaviour</li> <li>• Whistleblowing Policy</li> <li>• Safe Space confidential reporting telephone line and website</li> </ul>
Ensures that those involved in making decisions are provided with all relevant advice and implications.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Section 151 Officer advice</li> <li>• Monitoring Officer advice</li> <li>• Finance Procedure Rules</li> <li>• Contract Procedures Rules</li> <li>• Senior officers in Legal Services and Finance review all reports going to Councillors for decision</li> <li>• Cabinet Member Briefings</li> <li>• Executive Meetings</li> </ul>
Ensures risk management process is applied at all levels of the organization.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Risk Management Framework</li> <li>• Strategic Risk Register reviewed regularly by Audit &amp; Risk Committee</li> <li>• Corporate and Departmental risk registers</li> <li>• Information Governance Risk Register</li> </ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Performance, finance and risk report to Cabinet and Scrutiny quarterly</li> </ul>
Ensures that whistle blowing arrangements are in place for all officers and those contracting with the authority.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Whistleblowing Policy</li> <li>• Contract Procedure Rules</li> <li>• Standard contracts and involvement of legal team in drafting</li> </ul>
Maintains an effective process for reviewing the requirements of the law, the legality of transaction, decisions and the impact of new laws.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Constitution</li> <li>• Monitoring Officer's responsibilities as per Constitution</li> </ul>
<p><b>CODE OF GOVERNANCE PRINCIPLE G</b></p> <p><b>Implementing good practices in transparency, reporting, and audit to deliver effective accountability</b></p> <p>This core principle is supported by three supporting principles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implementing good practice in transparency</li> <li>• Implementing good practices in reporting</li> <li>• Assurance and effective accountability</li> </ul>	
<b>What the Council does</b>	<b>How it demonstrates this</b>
Maintains an effective scrutiny function which is aimed at improvement and service delivery.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overview and Scrutiny Arrangements as per Article 7 of the Constitution</li> </ul>
Maintains an effective Audit Committee that is independent of executive and scrutiny functions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Audit and Risk Committee Terms of Reference as per Article 8 of the Constitution</li> <li>• Audit and Risk Committee includes two independent Councillors</li> </ul>
Has a robust approach to the provision of Internal and External Audit.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Internal Audit function with an Internal Audit Charter</li> <li>• Compliance with Public Sector Internal Audit Standards</li> <li>• Internal Audit Annual Report providing an opinion on the adequacy and effectiveness of the Council's internal control, risk management and governance framework</li> <li>• Opt-in to the Public Sector Audit Appointments arrangements for the selection of the External Auditor</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• External Auditor's Annual Report</li> <li>• Internal and external Audit reports considered regularly by Audit and Risk Committee</li> <li>• Audit and Risk Committee Annual Report to Council</li> </ul>
Makes all information publicly available unless it is exempt by law.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Constitution</li> <li>• The Council's website</li> <li>• Forward Plan of Key Decisions</li> <li>• Webcast of various Meetings (including those made as per Covid-19 special requirements) in accordance with relevant Protocols</li> <li>• Information Governance policies and procedures including relating to Freedom of Information</li> <li>• Environmental Information Regulations procedures</li> <li>• WV Insight data and analytics</li> </ul>
Ensures that Officers are regularly consulted and invite comments from Officers on a wide range of issues.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consultation with Recognised Trade Unions</li> <li>• Professional Conversations</li> </ul>
Holds meetings in public unless there is to be discussion of matters of a confidential nature.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Council, Cabinet, Board, Committee and Scrutiny meetings are all held in public unless considering exempt or confidential information</li> <li>• Protocol for Webcasting of meetings (including arrangements made as per Covid-19 special requirements)</li> <li>• Protocol for Recording and Filming of Meetings and the Use of social media</li> </ul>
Ensures that clear channels of communication are in place with all sections of the community and other stakeholders and put in place monitoring arrangements to ensure these operate effectively.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Forward Plan of Key Decisions</li> <li>• Consultation on significant policy changes including via the Council's consultation and engagement portal Citizen Space</li> <li>• Annual Report</li> <li>• Petitions Scheme</li> <li>• Public questions at Council meetings</li> <li>• Information Governance policies and procedures including relating to Freedom of Information</li> <li>• Environmental Information Regulations procedures</li> <li>• Whistleblowing policy</li> </ul>

<p>Communicates on a regular basis the Council's key performance data, achievements and financial position.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Annual Report</li> <li>• Regular finance, performance and risk reports</li> <li>• Annual Audit Letter</li> <li>• Council Tax Information for residents</li> </ul>
<p>Sets out how decisions are made, and which decisions are reserved to the Full Council. Determine a scheme of delegation to Chief Officers, including those decisions which are not included in their delegated powers and are reserved to Council or Cabinet.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scheme of Delegation to Officers (Part 3) within the Constitution</li> <li>• Articles of the Constitution (Part 2) within the Constitution</li> <li>• Forward Plan of Key Decisions</li> </ul>
<p>Makes the Director of Finance (as Section 151 officer) responsible for ensuring that appropriate advice is given on all financial matters, for keeping proper financial records and accounts, and for maintaining an effective system of internal financial control.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Section 151 Officer responsibilities as set out in the Constitution</li> </ul>

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<b>CITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON COUNCIL</b>	<b>Meeting of the City Council</b> <b>2 November 2022</b>
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<b>Report title</b>	Audit and Risk Committee Annual Report 2021-2022	
<b>Referring body</b>	Audit and Risk Committee	
<b>Councillor to present report</b>	Councillor Obaida Ahmed – Resources and Digital City	
<b>Wards affected</b>	Wards	
<b>Cabinet Member with lead responsibility</b>	Councillor Obaida Ahmed, Resources and Digital City	
<b>Accountable director</b>	Claire Nye, Director of Finance	
<b>Originating service</b>	Audit	
<b>Accountable employee</b>	Claire Nye	Director of Finance
	Tel	01902 550478
	Email	<a href="mailto:claire.nye@wolverhampton.gov.uk">claire.nye@wolverhampton.gov.uk</a>
<b>Report to be/has been considered by</b>	Audit and Risk Committee	26 September 2022

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**Recommendations for decision:**

The Council is recommended to:

1. Endorse the Audit and Risk Committee Annual Report for 2021-2022.

## **1.0 Purpose**

- 1.1 This report summarises the main areas of work undertaken by the Audit and Risk Committee during 2020-2021.

## **2.0 Background**

- 2.1 On 26 September 2022 the Audit and Risk Committee considered a report on Audit and Risk Committee Annual Report 2021-2022.
- 2.2 Copies of the report have been supplied to Councillors and can also be accessed online on the Council's website [here](#).
- 2.3 Audit and Risk Committee recommended to Council that it:

1. Endorse the Audit and Risk Committee Annual Report for 2021-2022.

## **3.0 Financial implications**

- 3.1 The financial implications are detailed in the Audit and Risk Committee report of 26 September 2022.

## **4.0 Legal implications**

- 4.1 The legal implications are detailed in the Audit and Risk Committee report of 26 September 2022.

## **5.0 Equalities implications**

- 5.1 The equalities implications are detailed in the Audit and Risk Committee report of 26 September 2022.

## **6.0 All other Implications**

- 6.1 All other implications are detailed in the Audit and Risk Committee report of 26 September 2022.

## **7.0 Schedule of background papers**

- 7.1 Audit and Risk Committee – Annual Report 2021 – 2022, Audit and Risk Committee, 26 September 2022.

## **8.0 Appendices**

- 8.1 None.



# Audit and Risk Committee

26 September 2022

<b>Report title</b>	Audit and Risk Committee Annual Report 2021-2022	
<b>Accountable director</b>	Claire Nye, Finance	
<b>Originating service</b>	Audit	
<b>Accountable employee(s)</b>	Peter Farrow Tel Email	Head of Audit 01902 554460 <a href="mailto:peter.farrow@wolverhampton.gov.uk">peter.farrow@wolverhampton.gov.uk</a>
<b>Report to be/has been considered by</b>	Not applicable	

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## Recommendation(s) for decision:

The Committee is recommended to:

1. Endorse the Audit and Risk Committee Annual Report for 2021-2022 and refer it to Full Council for approval.

## **1.0 Purpose**

1.1 This report summarises the main areas of work undertaken by the Audit and Risk Committee during 2021-2022.

## **2.0 Background**

2.1 The purpose of the Audit and Risk Committee is to provide independent assurance on the adequacy of the risk management framework and the internal control environment. It provides an independent review of the governance, risk management and control frameworks and oversees the financial reporting and annual governance processes. It oversees internal audit and external audit, helping to ensure efficient and effective assurance arrangements are in place.

## **3.0 Progress, options, discussion**

3.1 The Audit and Risk Committee will continue to receive regular assurance reports throughout the year.

## **4.0 Financial implications**

4.1 There are no financial implications arising from the recommendation in this report. [GE/12092022/R]

## **5.0 Legal implications**

5.1 There are no legal implications arising from the recommendation in this report. [TC/06092022/B]

## **6.0 Equalities implications**

6.1 Equalities issues are implicit within the work of the Audit and Risk Committee throughout the year. Specific equality issues may also be addressed within individual activities undertaken by both the internal and external auditors, and where appropriate will be reported back to the committee.

## **7.0 All other implications**

7.1 There are no other implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

## **8.0 Schedule of background papers**

8.1 Audit and Risk Committee – Annual Report



# Audit and Risk Committee Annual Report 2021 - 2022



# 1

## The Audit and Risk Committee at Wolverhampton

**Councillor Craig Collingswood**  
Chair of the Audit and Risk Committee

*“The Audit and Risk Committee is a key component of the Council’s corporate governance. It provides an independent and high-level focus on the audit, assurance and reporting arrangements that underpin good governance and financial standards”.*



One of the Audit and Risk Committee’s key roles is to provide independent assurance to the Council on the adequacy of the risk management framework and the internal control environment. It provides independent review of the governance, risk management and control frameworks and oversees the financial reporting and annual governance processes.

By overseeing the operational work of both the internal and external auditors, the Committee helps to ensure that efficient and effective assurance arrangements are in place. The key benefits of the Committee can be seen as:

- increasing public confidence in the accuracy, objectivity and fairness of financial and other reporting;
- reinforcing the importance and independence of internal and external audit and similar review processes;
- providing additional assurance through a process of independent review; *and*
- ensuring that the Council is underpinned by robust internal controls; and ensuring the implementation of audit recommendations.

The Audit and Risk Committee has a cycle of work for each year. It is based on (but not limited to) the following main sources of assurance:

- Annual Governance Statement - this is the statutory report which the Committee approves in relation to the council's Statement of Accounts. It also incorporates a Council wide review of the effectiveness of governance and has been strengthened over the last 12 months to incorporate additional information on the Council's linked bodies.
- Strategic Risk Register - a regular review of the key risks the Council faces, and how the Committee can gain assurance that they are being well managed.
- Internal Audit - the ongoing work of, and reports from the Council's internal auditors.
- External Audit - the reports submitted to the Committee by the Council's external auditors Grant Thornton, and their annual audit of the Statement of Accounts.
- The Council's compliance with the CIPFA Financial Management Code.
- The work of the Council's Counter Fraud team.

From our examination of the Council's Risk Register and where control issues are raised by our internal and external auditors, we can summon senior Council officers to justify and answer questions on what actions are being taken to improve matters and how risks are being managed. Our ability to have access to all Council activities is a powerful tool and the committee intends to continue to 'call-in' key risks at various points throughout the year. During the year we held more detailed discussions around controls and risks on a diverse range of high-profile issues, including:

- Civic Halls
- Climate Change
- Professional Conversation Process
- Children's Residential Homes – Employee Working Hours
- IR35 Compliance

Also, as a committee we were once again pleased with the findings in the latest External Auditors Annual Report, which overall was a very positive one for the Council. Following completion of their audit of the Council's financial statements, Grant Thornton issued an unqualified opinion, reflecting positively on the financial governance of the Council.

They also noted that the Council had maintained a good financial position, reporting that it had historically performed well, with a record of strong financial and budgetary management, and that overall there were no significant weaknesses in the arrangement to secure financial stability.

With regards to considering the arrangements for ensuring that the Council makes appropriate decisions in the right way, including arrangements for budget setting and management, risk management, and ensuring that decisions were based on appropriate information, they noted that there were good systems in place for oversight of the budget, the constitution was regularly reviewed and that the Council had an established anti-fraud culture.

Finally, they reported that they were satisfied the Council had appropriate arrangements in place to ensure it manages risks and its oversight in ensuring economy, efficiency and effectiveness.

I believe it was another successful year for the Audit and Risk Committee and we look forward to building on this during 2022-2023

Finally, as the new Chair of the Audit and Risk Committee I would like to thank the members both past and present, along with our internal and external auditors and all of the other officers who have contributed towards its success.

***Councillor Craig Collingswood***

## Membership of our Committee

- Councillor **Councillor Craig Collingswood** (Chair)
- Councillor **Paul Appleby** (Vice-Chair)
- Councillor **Mary Bateman**
- Councillor **Phil Bateman** MBE
- Councillor **Claire Darke**
- Councillor **John Reynolds**
- Councillor **Tersaim Singh**
- Councillor **Jonathan Yardley**

The following members also served on the Committee during 2021-2022:

- Former Councillor **Alan Butt**
- Councillor **Milkinder Jaspal**
- Councillor **Andrew McNeil**
- Councillor **Claire Simm**

We are also delighted that we have two highly experienced Independent Members who bring a level of independent challenge and outside perspective to the Committee, and we particularly thank them for volunteering their time:

- Mr **Mike Ager**
- Mr **Armstrong Ngoh**



## 2

## Key business

Our key business during the year, by meeting, was:

MEETING	ACTIVITY
<b>26 July 2021</b>	Draft Statement of Accounts 2020-2021
	Annual Internal Audit Report 2020-2021
	Strategic Risk Register
	CIPFA Audit Committee Update
	Payment Transparency
	Counter Fraud Update
<b>27 September 2021</b>	Audited Statement of Accounts 2020-2021
	Strategic Risk Register
	Internal Audit Update
	Audit and Risk Committee Annual Report 2020-2021
	CIPFA Audit Committee Update
	Counter Fraud Update
	Payment Transparency
<b>6 December 2021</b>	Annual Governance Statement – Six Months Update
	Financial Management Code Update
	External Audit Progress Report
	Appointment of the External Auditor
	Internal Audit Progress Report
	Internal Audit Charter
	Counter Fraud Update
	Payment Transparency
	Strategic Risk Register
	Civic Halls Programme

MEETING	ACTIVITY
<b>14 March 2022</b>	Strategic Risk Register
	External Audit Progress Report
	External Audit Annual Audit Report
	Audit and Risk Committee Terms of Reference Annual Review
	Internal Audit Plan 2022-2023
	Internal Audit Progress Report
	Counter Fraud Update
	Payment Transparency
	Measures to Improve Local Audit Delays
<b>20 June 2022</b>	External Audit Plan 2021-2022
	CIPFA Financial Management Code Review
	Payment Transparency
	Annual Internal Audit Report 2021-2022
<b>25 July 2022</b>	Code of Corporate Governance
	Annual Governance Statement 2021-2022
	Assessment of Going Concern
	Draft Statement of Accounts 2021-2022
	Counter Fraud Update
	Strategic Risk Register
	Risk Management Framework
Cyber Security Update	

As can be seen from the above, we are responsible for reviewing and approving the formal publication of the Annual Statement of Accounts, as required by the Accounts and Audit Regulations. These are a very complex and comprehensive set of accounts, and as stated above we appreciate the time and support of both the External Auditors and the Council's Finance Officers in this task, who also during the year provided training to the Committee in order to ensure that we have the skills required.

# 3

## We play a key role in helping to prevent and detect fraud

The Council is committed to creating and maintaining an environment where fraud, corruption and bribery will not be tolerated. This message is made clear within our Anti-Fraud and Corruption Policy, which states: “The Council operates a zero tolerance on fraud, corruption and bribery whereby all instances will be investigated, and the perpetrator(s) will be dealt with in accordance with established policies. Action will be taken to recover all monies stolen from the Council.” The counter fraud agenda is one that continues to also hold significant prominence from Central Government who continue to promote a wide range of counter fraud activities and initiatives.

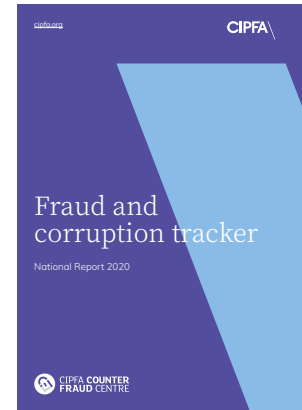
One of the roles of the Committee, and one in which it places a great deal of importance, is to review the assessment of fraud risks and potential harm to the Council from fraud and corruption along with monitoring the counter-fraud strategy, actions and resources. We receive regular reports from the Counter Fraud team which provide us with updates on a range of fraud related activities including:

- Results from the Cabinet Office’s National Fraud Initiative
- Latest national fraud benchmarking reports and how the Council responds to them
- Progress made against the fraud action plan
- Review of the Council’s Fraud Risk Register
- An update on the levels of, and action taken on potential fraudulent applications relating to Covid-19 Business Support Grants
- Outcomes from tenancy fraud, subletting and right to buy investigations

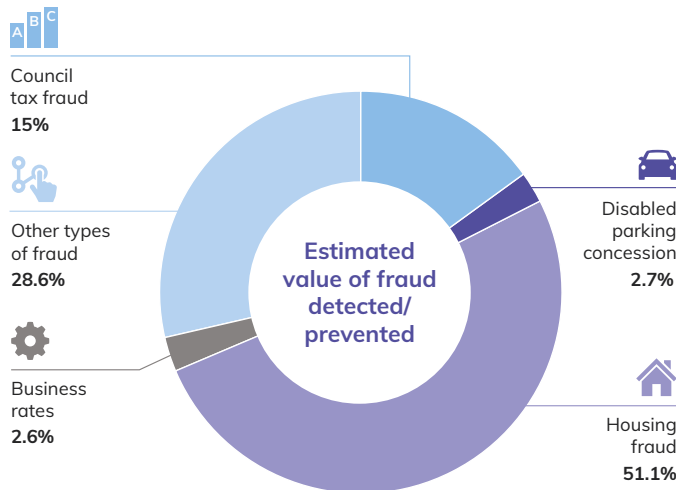
We use our time at the committee to consider all of the above, and to provide the appropriate challenge where necessary in order to ensure ourselves and the wider Council that we are doing everything we can to prevent and detect fraud.



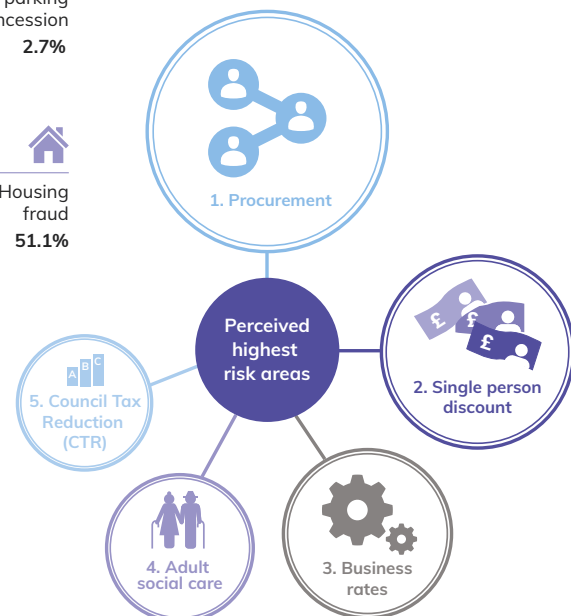
During the year the Committee received the results of CIPFA's latest Fraud and Corruption Tracker. The survey takes place with the aim of creating a national picture of the types and volume of fraud detected and prevented in local authorities. The results were collated from local authorities in all regions in the UK, allowing CIPFA to estimate the total figures for fraud across England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.



This highlighted that the largest growing fraud area was housing tenancy, with an estimated £60.1m lost nationally in 2019-2020 compared to £47.7m in 2018-2019. This was followed by council tax single person discount which has an estimated increase of £9.6m to an estimated value of £29.0m. The two highest perceived fraud risk areas for 2019-2020 were the same as the previous year: procurement and council tax single person discount. This shows these are the areas that require strict controls and support. The perceived third, fourth and fifth highest fraud risk areas were business rates, adult social care and council tax reduction respectively.



Highlight results from the latest national fraud tracker exercise





## Site visit to the Civic Halls

As part of the ongoing risk management process, the committee recently undertook a site visit to the Civic Halls. We would like to pass on our thanks to those involved for what was a very informative visit, and the management of this risk will continue to remain one of the areas of focus for the committee over the coming year.



## Midlands Audit Committee Seminar

Back in 2017 and 2018 the City of Wolverhampton Council Audit and Risk Committee organised and hosted well attended seminars for Audit Committee Chairs from across the region. This saw a number of members from other authorities visit the City in order to share ideas, and to hear from a range of guest speakers on issues relevant to the work of Local Authority Audit Committees.

This municipal year we are currently in the process of reintroducing this event and will be arranging the next seminar in the City's prestigious Art Gallery.

## 4

## Key principles

**We continued with the following key principles during the year:**

- Focussing our work on high-risk areas and helping to inspire public confidence in the Council. Our meetings are open to the Public so they are able to witness in person the challenge we bring.
- Continuing to focus on the Council's risk management arrangements, gaining an increased assurance that the Council is managing its risks well and retaining the option of 'calling-in' risks and their risk owners.
- Continuing to maintain a strong working relationship, through regular progress meetings, with the Council's External Auditors Grant Thornton, our Internal Auditors and Senior Officers.



# 5

## Audit and Risk Committee Training Sessions

Members of the Committee have recently attended training sessions hosted by both Audit Services and the Finance team on various matters associated with finance, audit and counter fraud. The Committee would like to pass on our thanks to the officers who delivered this training, in what were very informative sessions.



## 6

## Our conclusion for 2021-2022

*As a result of our work throughout the year, we were able to confirm:*

- That the system of internal control, governance and risk management in the Council was adequate in identifying risks and allowing the Council to understand the appropriate management of these risks.
- That there were no areas of significant duplication or omission in the systems of internal control, governance and risk management that had come to the Committee's attention, and had not been adequately resolved.

*We believe that our key achievements during the year were:*

- Continuing to provide assurance through a process of independent review and challenge.
- Raising the profile of internal control issues across the Council and of the need to ensure that audit recommendations are implemented.
- Regular consideration and review of the risks that the Council faces, through consideration of the Strategic Risk Register.
- Continuing to maintain a good working relationship with the Council's internal and external auditors.
- Building the skills and knowledge of Committee members through regular technical updates, training and the consideration of related guidance issued by CIPFA.
- The presence of two independent members serving on the Committee in order to broaden the Committee's experience and independent viewpoint.
- Maintaining a detailed focus on the actions being taken to combat fraud.
- Reviewing and updating the Committee's Terms of Reference in order to ensure they remain fit for purpose.

# 7

## Terms of Reference

### Statement of purpose

Our Audit and Risk Committee is a key component of the Council's corporate governance. It provides an independent and high-level focus on the audit, assurance and reporting arrangements that underpin good governance and financial standards.

The purpose of our Audit and Risk Committee is to provide independent assurance to the members of the adequacy of the risk management framework and the internal control environment. It provides independent review of the governance, risk management and control frameworks and oversees the financial reporting and annual governance processes. It oversees internal audit and external audit, helping to ensure efficient and effective assurance arrangements are in place.



## Governance, risk and control

To review the Council's corporate governance arrangements against the good governance framework and consider annual governance reports and assurances.

To review the annual governance statement prior to approval and consider whether it properly reflects the risk environment and supporting assurances, taking into account internal audit's opinion on the overall adequacy and effectiveness of the Council's framework of governance, risk management and control.

To consider the Council's arrangements to secure value for money and review assurances and assessments on the effectiveness of these arrangements.

To consider the Council's framework of assurance and ensure that it adequately addresses the risks and priorities of the Council.

To monitor the effective development and operation of risk management in the Council.

To monitor progress in addressing risk-related issues reported to the committee.

To consider reports on the effectiveness of internal controls and monitor the implementation of agreed actions.

To review the assessment of fraud risks and potential harm to the Council from fraud and corruption.

To monitor the counter-fraud strategy, actions and resources.

To review the governance and assurance arrangements for significant partnerships or collaborations.

## Internal Audit

To approve the internal audit charter.

To review proposals made in relation to the appointment of external providers of internal audit services and to make recommendations.

To approve the risk based internal audit plan, including internal audit's resource requirements, the approach to using other sources of assurance and any work required to place reliance upon those other sources.

To approve significant interim changes to the risk-based internal audit plan and resource requirements.

To make appropriate enquiries of both management and the head of internal audit to determine if there are any inappropriate scope or resource limitations.

To consider any impairments to independence or objectivity arising from additional roles or responsibilities outside of internal auditing of the head of internal audit. To approve and periodically review safeguards to limit such impairments.

To consider reports from the head of internal audit on internal audit's performance during the year, including the performance of external providers of internal audit services.

*These will include:*

- Updates on the work of internal audit including key findings, issues of concern and action in hand as a result of internal audit work;
- Regular reports on the results of the quality assurance and improvement programme;
- Reports on instances where the internal audit function does not conform to the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards and Local Government Application Note, considering whether the non-conformance is significant enough that it must be included in the annual governance statement.



*To consider the head of internal audit's annual report:*

- The statement of the level of conformance with the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards and Local Government Application Note and the results of the quality assurance and improvement programme that supports the statement - these will indicate the reliability of the conclusions of internal audit.
- The opinion on the overall adequacy and effectiveness of the Council's framework of governance, risk management and control together with the summary of the work supporting the opinion - these will assist the committee in reviewing the annual governance statement.

To consider summaries of specific internal audit reports as requested.

To receive reports outlining the action taken where the head of internal audit has concluded that management has accepted a level of risk that may be unacceptable to the authority or there are concerns about progress with the implementation of agreed actions.

To contribute to the quality assurance and improvement programme and in particular, to the external quality assessment of internal audit that takes place at least once every five years.

To consider a report on the effectiveness of internal audit to support the annual governance statement, where required to do so by the Accounts and Audit Regulations.

To provide free and unfettered access to the audit committee chair for the head of internal audit, including the opportunity for a private meeting with the committee.

## External Audit

To support the independence of external audit through consideration of the external auditor's annual assessment of its independence and review of any issues raised by PSAA or the authority's auditor panel as appropriate.

To consider the external auditor's annual letter, relevant reports, and the report to those charged with governance.

To consider specific reports as agreed with the external auditor.

To comment on the scope and depth of external audit work and to ensure it gives value for money.

To commission work from internal and external audit.

To advise and recommend on the effectiveness of relationships between external and internal audit and other inspection agencies or relevant bodies.

## Financial reporting

To receive detailed training in respect of the process associated with the preparation, sign off, audit and publication of the Council's annual statement of accounts.

To monitor the on-going progress towards publication of the Council's annual statement of accounts, ensuring the statutory deadlines are achieved.

To obtain explanations for all significant variances between planned and actual expenditure to the extent that it impacts on the annual statement of accounts.

To review the annual statement of accounts. Specifically, to consider whether appropriate accounting policies have been followed, appropriate accounting estimates have been included in the Council's financial statements and whether there are concerns arising from the financial statements or from the audit that need to be brought to the attention of the Council.

To consider the external auditor's report to those charged with governance on issues arising from the audit of the accounts.

## Accountability arrangements

To report to those charged with governance on the committee's findings, conclusions and recommendations concerning the adequacy and effectiveness of their governance, risk management and internal control frameworks, financial reporting arrangements, and internal and external audit functions.

To report to full Council on a regular basis on the committee's performance in relation to the terms of reference, and the effectiveness of the committee in meeting its purpose.

To publish an annual report on the work of the Committee.



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Wolverhampton WV1 1SH

**Page 116**

<b>CITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON COUNCIL</b>	<b>Meeting of the City Council</b> <b>2 November 2022</b>
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<b>Report title</b>	Final polling district and polling place proposals	
<b>Referring body</b>	Governance and Ethics Committee – 20 October 2022	
<b>Councillor to present report</b>	Councillor Paula Brookfield	
<b>Wards affected</b>	All Wards	
<b>Cabinet Member with lead responsibility</b>	Councillor Paula Brookfield Cabinet Member for Governance and Equalities	
<b>Accountable director</b>	David Pattison, Chief Operating Officer	
<b>Originating service</b>	Electoral Services	
<b>Accountable employee</b>	Laura Noonan	Electoral Services Manager
	Tel	01902 554939
	Email	Laura.noonan@wolverhampton.gov.uk
<b>Report to be/has been considered by</b>	Governance and Ethics Committee	20 October 2022
	Election Board	7 November 2022

#### **Recommendations for decision:**

The Council is recommended to:

1. Approve the polling district and polling place scheme contained in Appendix 1 to be adopted in relation to all elections.
2. Approve the necessary amendments to polling districts for the publication of the 1 December 2022 electoral register.
3. Approve the delegation of authority to the Returning Officer and Chief Operating Officer in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Governance, Leader and Leader of the Opposition to make minor alterations to the polling station scheme prior to the next compulsory review (October 2023 to January 2025).

#### **Recommendations for noting:**

The Council is asked to note:

1. That the submissions made to the Council as part of the consultation on the review of polling districts and polling place, along with the Acting Returning Officer Response are set out in Appendix 5.

## **1.0 Purpose**

1.1 To approve the final proposals for the polling district and polling place scheme for 2023.

## **2.0 Background**

2.1 On 20 October 2022, Governance and Ethics Committee considered a report on Final polling district and polling place proposals.

2.2 Copies of the report have been supplied to Councillors and can also be accessed online on the Council's website [here](#).

2.3 Governance and Ethics Committee recommended to Council that it approves:

1. The polling district and polling place scheme contained in Appendix 1 to be adopted in relation to all elections.
2. The necessary amendments to polling districts for the publication of the 1 December 2022 electoral register.
3. The delegation of authority to the Returning Officer and Chief Operating Officer in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Governance, Leader and Leader of the Opposition to make minor alterations to the polling station scheme prior to the next compulsory review (October 2023 to January 2025).

2.4 Governance and Ethics Committee recommended to Council that it notes:

1. That the submissions made to the Council as part of the consultation on the review of polling districts and polling place, along with the Acting Returning Officer Response are set out in Appendix 5.

## **3.0 Financial implications**

3.1 The financial implications are detailed in the Governance and Ethics Committee report of 20 October 2022.

## **4.0 Legal implications**

4.1 The legal implications are detailed in the Governance and Ethics Committee report of 20 October 2022.

## **5.0 Equalities implications**

5.1 The equalities implications are detailed in the Governance and Ethics Committee report of 20 October 2022.

## **6.0 All other Implications**

6.1 All other implications are detailed in the Governance and Ethics Committee report of 20 October 2022.

**7.0 Schedule of background papers**

- 7.1 Final Polling District and Polling Place Proposals, Governance and Ethics Committee, 20 October 2022.

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# Governance and Ethics Committee

20 October 2022

<b>Report title</b>	Final polling district and polling place proposals	
<b>Cabinet member with lead responsibility</b>	Councillor Paula Brookfield Cabinet Member for Governance and Equalities	
<b>Accountable director</b>	David Pattison, Chief Operating Officer	
<b>Originating service</b>	Electoral Services	
<b>Accountable employee</b>	Laura Noonan	Electoral Services Manager
	Tel	01902 554939
	Email	Laura.noonan@wolverhampton.gov.uk
<b>Report to be/has been considered by</b>	Council	2 November 2022
	Election Board	7 November 2022

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## Recommendations for decision:

The Governance and Ethics Committee recommends that Council:

1. Approve the polling district and polling place scheme contained in Appendix 1 to be adopted in relation to all elections.
2. Approve the necessary amendments to polling districts for the publication of the 1 December 2022 electoral register.
3. Approve the delegation of authority to the Returning Officer and Chief Operating Officer in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Governance, Leader and Leader of the Opposition to make minor alterations to the polling station scheme prior to the next compulsory review (October 2023 to January 2025).

## Recommendations for noting:

The Governance Committee is asked to note:

1. The submissions made to the Council as part of the consultation on the review of polling districts and polling place, along with the Acting Returning Officer Response are set out in Appendix 5.

2. That a double polling station in Bilston South is yet to be confirmed. A site visit is required to assess the suitability of alternative venues in place Lower Bradley Community Centre. Assets confirmed that the Council are currently in the process of disposing this asset, and that all ward Councillors have been consulted on this project.

## 1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 This report presents the final proposals for the polling district and polling place scheme for 2023 for approval by the Council. It is recommended that the Council approves this scheme.

## 2.0 Background

- 2.1 The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) Order for the Wolverhampton Electoral Review was laid before parliament on 15 June 2022. The Order was made on 20 September 2022 which confirms the creation of new ward boundaries in Wolverhampton effective from May 2023. This will result in changes to the majority of ward boundaries, but the number of wards and the number of councillors will remain the same. A new polling district and polling place scheme is required to reflect the new boundaries at the revision of the electoral register on 1 December 2022.
- 2.2 All councillors will be up for election in May 2023. The council will then return to a cycle of election by thirds with elections in 2024, 2026 and 2027. The councillor with the highest number of votes will be elected to the four-year term, the second highest to the three-year term and the lowest to the one-year term. The Chief Operating Officer has written to DLUCH to request that the fallow year be in 2024 instead of 2025. The outcome of this request is yet to be received.
- 2.3 The differences between a polling district, place and station are as follows:
- A polling district is a geographical sub-division of an electoral area (ward in this instance), as well as parliamentary constituency boundaries.
  - A polling place is the building or area in which polling stations will be selected by the Returning Officer. A polling place within a polling district must be designated so that polling stations are within easy reach of all electors from across the polling district.
  - A polling station is the room or area within the polling place where voting takes places. Unlike polling districts and polling places which are fixed by the local authority, polling stations are chosen by the relevant Returning Officer for the election. The Returning Officer for the particular election must provide a sufficient number of polling stations and allocate the electors to those polling stations in such manner as they think the most convenient.

## 3.0 Review process 2022

- 3.1 The Governance and Ethics Committee approved the timetable for the formal review process at its meeting on 7 July 2022, and this is set out below:

Activity	Date
Publish notice of holding review and start of public formal consultation	18 July 2022

Drop-in sessions with ward Councillors to share feedback on proposals	18 July 2022 – 26 August 2022
End of formal consultation	26 August 2022
Collate results from consultation and prepare final scheme of polling districts and stations	29 August 2022 – 30 September 2022
Attend political group meeting to share final scheme of polling district and stations for comment	September 2022
Final scheme of polling districts and stations taken to Governance and Ethics Committee for recommendation to full council	20 October 2022
Final recommendations presented to the council	2 November 2022
Publish electoral register on new boundaries	1 December 2022
Poll cards will be sent to electors with polling station details on	March 2023

3.2 In accordance with the requirements set out in the Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013, the following steps were carried out for the formal review:

- Publish a notice of the holding of a review.
- Consult the ARO for every parliamentary constituency which is wholly or partly in its area.
- Publish all representations made by an ARO within 30 days of receipt by posting a copy of them at the local authority's office and in at least one conspicuous place in their area and, if the authority maintains a website, by placing a copy on the authority's website.
- 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 have an opportunity to make representations and to comment on the representations made by the AROs.
- On completion of a review, give reasons for its decisions and publish:
  - all correspondence sent to an (Acting) Returning Officer in connection with the review.

- all correspondence sent to any person whom the authority 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 meeting held by the council to consider any revision to the designation of polling districts or polling places within its area as a result of the review.
- details of the designation of polling districts and polling places within the local authority area as a result of the review.

3.3 To comply with Electoral Commission guidance, the number of electors allocated to each polling station should not exceed 2,500.

3.4 To facilitate the consultation process, a draft scheme was launched for comment, and the following information and principles were used to propose the draft scheme:

- Data provided to the LG BCE detailing proposed areas of new development, the approximate number of dwellings and expected population numbers for those areas.
- Details of current polling places and an indication as to their overall suitability for purpose.
- Presiding Officer/Polling Station Inspector comments from May 2021 and May 2022 local elections.
- Alternative venues to schools to minimise the impact on children's education.
- Alternative venues to temporary polling stations (portacabins).
- Polling places should be within one mile of each elector.
- Site visits were undertaken to assess the suitability of alternative venues.

#### **4.0 Consultation approach and responses received.**

4.1 The consultation was published on the council's main consultation page. Representations could be made via the online questionnaire, or in writing via email or post.

4.2 As part of the consultation process, all ward councillors were invited to drop-in sessions during the period 18 July – 25 August, to offer information and local knowledge to aid the Returning Officer when considering proposals for both polling districts and polling places.

4.3 All Members of Parliament for Wolverhampton's three parliamentary constituencies, and candidates and agents who stood in the May 2022 elections were invited to respond to the consultation via email.

4.4 The consultation was forwarded on to around 50 key stakeholders including community centres, resident's groups, faith groups and charities.

4.5 The public consultation was advertised on the Council website, the Council's social media channels, resident's newsletter, in local newspapers and internal staff channels. A leaflet was included in canvass letters to all households as part of the annual canvass.

- 4.6 The councils staff disability group were also invited to comment on the accessibility of polling stations.
- 4.7 In total, 72 responses were received. All responses are summarised in Appendix 5.
- 4.8 A large number of suggestions were taken on board and further changes were made to 13 wards with the majority being changes to polling station venues.
- 4.9 In September, meetings were held with both Labour and Conservative Group to discuss the representations received, and in the main both groups supported the Acting Returning Officer's amendments as a result, with only a few minor amendments made.

## 5.0 Changes to the draft scheme

- 5.1 The table below details the changes that have been made to the draft scheme which was presented to Governance and Ethics Committee on 7 July 2022:

Ward	Polling District/Polling Station Draft proposal	Comments received during consultation	Amendment proposed in final scheme
Bilston North	BN1 - Tenants Meeting Room, Hugh Gaitskell Court	Councillors were concerned about the vulnerable residents at the tenants meeting room and having this building open for public access. They also said that there is restricted access to parking because it is used by the residents, and it is not as central to the polling district.	Return to Stowlawn Primary School
Bilston North	BN4 and BN5 – Bilston Methodist Church	Feedback was received from ward councillors that this would not be suitable as the entrance is too close to traffic lights and would cause congestion. A concern for parking was also raised and that it would double the distance for electors to travel.	Return to Villiers Primary School
Bilston North	BN5 boundary to include the take in area from Ettingshall and Bilston South	Councillors said it was a busy junction and it would be more convenient for these electors to vote at the excel church as it has a better fit for this community.	Split in to two polling districts along the Wellington Road to create an additional polling district. The polling station for the new polling district will be at the excel church.

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Bilston South	Merge original BEH and BEA to become BS1 and to vote at Bert Williams	The horning drive polling station was closer for these electors, and it will also be the polling station to serve the new bilston urban village.	Return to Temporary Station, Horning Drive, WV14 0RR
Bilston South	BS6 and BS7	Assets have advised that Lower Bradley Community Centre will no longer be available as a polling station.	A site visit will be arranged to assess the suitability of Rocket Pool Strengthening Families Hub.
Blakenhall	BO3 – Temporary station, Colton Hills school  BO4 – St Johns Methodist Church	Ward councillors said that a large proportion of the residents are elderly who could not travel to the polling station, and many did not know where it was. They felt the polling station would be more suitable returning to Goldthorn Park Primary School.	Return to double polling station at Goldthorn Park Primary School.
Bushbury North	BUC - Northcote Farm, Underhill Lane, Bushbury, WV10 7JF	Northcote farm is too far away from the residential area	Temporary Station on park next to Mayfield Medical Practice, Cromwell Road, Wolverhampton, WV10 8UT.
Bushbury North	BUD - St Mary's Church, Bushbury Ln, WV10 8JP	Ward councillor fed back that this would not be suitable due to lighting concerns and the lack of parking available, whereas the library is closer and more suitable.	Return to Collingwood Library, Broadway, WV10 8EA
Ettingshall South and Spring Vale	ES1 – to take in the previous ETF (overfield drive) to vote at Hilton Hall.	Response to public consultation said that merging these districts would be unacceptable and too far for people to access from Overfield Drive area.	New polling district and return to Temporary Polling Station, Overfield Drive, WV14 9XW
Graiseley	GR2 – Association of Ukrainians in Great Britain.	This would not be suitable due to the polling station being outside the district.	Bingley Strengthening Families Hub, Norfolk Road, Pennfields, WV3 0JE

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Heath Town	HT1 – Woden Primary School	Reduces need for a school and it is in the same polling district	Double polling station at NTCG Harvest Temple Church, 1 Wolverhampton Road, WV10 0PD
Merry Hill	MH4 - St Josephs Church Hall, Coalway Road, WV3 7LF – existing PD boundary lines	Ward councillors commented that this change would make it easier for electors to travel to vote from this area as the polling station is located in this area.	Same station but to give away Pinfold Grove to MHE
Merry Hill	MH5 - Warstones Library, Pinfold Grove, WV4 4PT – existing PD boundary lines	Ward councillors commented that this change would make it easier for electors to vote from this area	Same station but to move boundary lines to follow Warstones road and Stourton drive
Oxley	OX4 - Rakegate primary school	Ward councillor fed back that these electors used to be in this district, and it is more convenient for them to vote here.	Polling district boundary change to take in the area north of lodge road from OX5
Oxley	OX5 - Polish catholic centre	Ward councillor fed back that these electors used to be in this district – as its lost some of St Annes area, and these electors did use to vote at this school.	Polling district boundary change to give away area north of lodge road to OX4.
Oxley	OX7 - Goodyear Sports and Social Club The Pavillion, Stafford Rd, WV10 6AJ	Ward councillor fed back that it is quite far for people to travel . Too difficult to come across the Stafford road. Bushbury Lane academy doesn't have much connection for the Akron estate and the southside is currently being developed.	Temporary polling station on Gatehouse Pub Cark Park, Donnington Grove, WV10 6EE
Penn	PN6 - Penn United Reformed Church	Ward councillor fed back that there was a high electorate for Penn United Reformed Church and this is more central to this area. Redraw the boundary so that electors in the area	Penn Bowling and Social Club, Manor Road, WV4 5PY



		immediately next to the church in PN6 can vote at this church.	
St Peters	SP3 - University Chaplaincy building	Ward councillor commented that this is too far for elector to get to university chaplaincy due to city centre navigation and lack of parking	Reinstate the boundary line and for these electors to vote at Newhampton Arts Centre
St Peters	SP5 - University Chaplaincy building	Ward councillors commented that this is too far and difficult to get to for the 28 electors coming from Heath Town	For these electors to stay at a polling station in the Heath Town ward – NTCG Harvest Temple Church
Tettenhall Regis	TR2 – Claregate Primary School	A response from the public consultation said that we can avoid use of school by using the Pavilion building	Pavilion building, Claregate playing fields
Wednesfield North	WN4 – to remain as is	Ward councillors commented that it is difficult for people in these areas to get to polling stations. This location is easier for electors to travel, as it is on a local bus route that is used frequently by voters.	Temporary Station on Griffiths Road, Top of Higgs Road, WV11 2PD

## 6.0 Final polling district and polling place proposals

6.1 The scheme is set out in detail in Appendix 2. It includes the following details:

- Map showing the polling district boundaries and location of polling place.
- Polling district reference letters
- Parliamentary constituency
- Polling place
- Estimated electorate
- Justification for proposal.

6.2 The following labelling convention for polling district references has been used:

- First two letters denote the ward (e.g. BN for Bilston North).
- Second letter denotes the polling district (e.g. 1, 2, 3)

6.3 A map to show the proposals across the city is set out in Appendix 3.

## **7.0 Summary of final proposal**

7.1 The final proposal recommends a total of:

- 125 polling districts and polling places
- 106 venues (19 double polling stations)
- 15 schools
- 6 temporary polling stations

7.2 The following 6 polling stations are outside of the ward boundary, but they are in close proximity to the boundary line and there have been no negative comments received in relation to these during the consultation period as they are more convenient for electors to get to:

- Bilston North – (BN2 – Portobello Community Centre is in East Park ward and is a double polling station with EP4)
- Bilston North – (BN6 – Bilston’s People Centre, Excel Church is in Ettingshall North ward and is a double polling station with EN5).
- Ettingshall North – (EN1 - All Saints Community Centre is in St Peters ward)
- Merry Hill – (MH6 – Springdale Methodist Church is in Penn ward and is a double polling station with PN2).
- St Peters – (SP5 – NTCG Harvest Temple Church is in Heath Town Ward. This is for 28 electors who will share a polling station with HT1 and HT2).
- Tettenhall Regis – (TR4 – St Michaels Parish Centre is in Tettenhall Wightwick ward)

7.3 Temporary polling stations can only be used where there are no suitable alternatives. They cannot be used instead of schools because the legislation states that the Returning Officer can use schools free of charge, so therefore any costs for temporary polling stations in place of schools would not be reimbursed by the Elections Claims Unit for national elections. Each temporary polling station unit costs around £2,000 and some sites would need two units so the additional costs would reach £64,000 if they were in place of each school. In addition to the financial implications, there are also significant health and safety risks as there needs to be parking nearby and a safer space for electors to queue, which will be an even greater need with the introduction of voter ID.

## **8.0 Schools as Polling Stations**

8.1 This proposed polling scheme reduces the number of schools by a further 8 to 15. Two of these schools remain open and 7 plan for it to be used as an inset day. We will work closely with the schools identified as polling places to support them to keep the majority of their building open on polling day wherever possible, or to plan to use polling day as one of the inset days.

8.2 The number of schools has significantly reduced over the last five years:

<b>Year – Election</b>	<b>Number of schools used</b>
2017 - Combined Authority Mayoral Election	37
2017 – General Election	38
2018 – Local Election	38
2019 – Local Election	34
2019 – European Parliamentary Election	33
2019 – General Election	33
2021 – Local, PCC and CAM election	28
2022 - Local Election	24
2023 – Local Election (Proposed)	15

8.3 The number of schools used by the other metropolitan councils in the region (correct as of September 2022):

<b>Authority</b>	<b>Number of Schools Used</b>
Birmingham	170+
Coventry	36
Dudley	60
Sandwell	25
Solihull	27
Walsall	26

## 9.0 Parliamentary boundaries

9.1 The parliamentary boundaries are affected by the ward boundary changes coming into effect in May 2023. Oxley and St Peter Wards are no longer coterminous with the parliamentary constituency boundaries. Therefore, it is required to retain a separate polling district to enable the electors to be registered within the existing parliamentary constituency boundary, which is why there are a number of small electorate polling districts in these wards.

## 10.0 Financial implications

10.1 Whilst legislation states that Returning Officers can use schools free of charge, they have been paid £275 to cover the costs of heating, lighting and caretaking duties. Non-school venues typically charge much more for hire. Total polling station hire costs have been in

the region of £40,000, with the proposed reduction in schools and use of temporary polling stations now estimated to add a further £10,000. This estimated total cost will be kept under review as polling station hire charges may also increase against a background of rising energy prices.

- 10.2 There is a £192,000 budget currently set aside to cover the cost of local elections each year. In the event of combined elections or fallow years significant underspends against the local elections budget are expected and provide scope for contributions to the Elections Reserve. Standalone election costs are conversely expected to exceed the local elections budget. In these years the additional costs are to be funded from the Elections Reserve.
- 10.3 The Elections Reserve currently stands at just over £183,000. It is currently anticipated that part of this funding will be utilised in 2022-2023 for the standalone local election costs incurred in excess of budget, inclusive of increased polling station costs.  
[GE/29092022/P]

### **11.0 Legal implications**

- 11.1 The process undertaken and all recommendations arising from this report are in line with the statutory provisions covering the review of polling districts and polling places. Electoral Commission guidance for conducting polling district and polling place reviews has been complied with. [ DP/12102022/B]

### **12.0 Equalities implications**

- 12.1 Local authorities have a duty to review the accessibility of all polling places to disabled voters and ensure that every polling place, and prospective polling place, for which it is responsible is accessible to disabled voters 'so far as is reasonable and practicable'. All polling stations that have been proposed are either accessible for disabled voters or provisions will be made to make them accessible for disabled voters on polling day.
- 12.2 An equalities analysis has been undertaken to identify the positive and negative impacts against the key equality themes and solutions identified to mitigate against negative impacts. The analysis is in Appendix 4.
- 12.3 Groups and individuals with expertise in access issues within Wolverhampton were invited to respond to the ARO's representations during the public consultation phase.

### **13.0 All other implications**

There are no other implications arising from this report at the current time.

### **14.0 Schedule of background papers**

- 14.1 Local Government Boundary Commission for England report Implementation Plan, Governance and Ethics Committee, 25 February 2022.
- 14.2 Boundary Review Implementation Plan and Polling District and Polling Place Review, Governance and Ethics Committee, 7 July 2022.
- 14.3 Update on polling district and polling station review, Governance and Ethics Committee, 1 September 2022.

- 14.4 Electoral Commission, Reviews of polling districts, polling places and polling stations  
[https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/sites/default/files/word\\_doc/Pollingdistrict-review-guidance.do](https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/sites/default/files/word_doc/Pollingdistrict-review-guidance.do)

**15.0 Appendices**

- 15.1 Appendix 1: Polling district and polling place scheme 2023
- 15.2 Appendix 2: Detailed polling district and polling place scheme 2023
- 15.3 Appendix 3: Polling scheme 2023 (Map of whole city)
- 15.4 Appendix 4: Equality Analysis
- 15.5 Appendix 5: Summary of representations received in the polling district and polling place review consultation.

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Polling district	Polling Place	Ward	Double polling station	Outside of ward boundary	School	Inset day	Temporary
BN1	Stowlawn Primary School, The Willows Campus, Green Park Avenue, WV14 6EH	Bilston North			yes	No	
BN2	Portobello Community Centre, Hill Road, WV13 3TT	Bilston North	with EP4	Yes			
BN3	St Chad's Church Hall, Connaught Road, WV14 6NY	Bilston North					
BN4	Villiers Primary School, Prouds Lane, WV14 6PR	Bilston North	with BN5		Yes	No	
BN5	Villiers Primary School, Prouds Lane, WV14 6PR	Bilston North	with BN4		Yes	No	
BN6	Bilston People`s Centre, Excel Church, Wolverhampton Street, WV14 0LT	Bilston North	with EN5	Yes			
BS1	Temporary Polling Station, Horning Drive, (Off Broadmoor Road), WV14 0RR	Bilston South					Yes
BS2	Bert Williams Leisure Centre, Nettlefolds Way, WV14 0EF	Bilston South					
BS3	Bilston Methodist Church, Bow Street, Bilston, WV14 7NB	Bilston South					
BS4	The Lunt Community Centre, Lunt Road, WV14 7BH	Bilston South					
BS5	Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Church, Oxford Street, Bilston, WV14 0PX	Bilston South					
BS6	TBC (alternative for Lower Bradley Community Centre, Wallace Road, Bilston, WV14 8BW)	Bilston South	with BS7				
BS7	TBC (alternative for Lower Bradley Community Centre, Wallace Road, Bilston, WV14 8BW)	Bilston South	with BS6				
BS8	Bradley Senior Citizens Centre, Wilkinson Avenue, Bilston, WV14 8PS	Bilston South					
BO1	Bob Jones Community Hub, Bromley Street, WV2 3AS	Blakenhall					
BO2	Royal Air Force Association Club, 26 Goldthorn Road, Near Junction with Grange Road, WV2 4PN	Blakenhall					
BO3	Goldthorn Park Primary School, Ward Road, WV4 5ET	Blakenhall	with BO4		Yes	No	
BO4	Goldthorn Park Primary School, Ward Road, WV4 5ET	Blakenhall	with BO3		Yes	No	
BO5	St Johns Methodist Church, 558 Wolverhampton Road East, WV4 6AA	Blakenhall					

BU1	Fordhouses Baptist Church, Winchester Road, WV10 6EJ	Bushbury North	with BU6				
BU2	St James Church Hall, Taunton Avenue WV10 6PN	Bushbury North					
BU3	Temporary Station on park next to Mayfield Medical Practice, Cromwell Road, Wolverhampton, WV10 8UT.	Bushbury North					Yes
BU4	Collingwood Library, Broadway, WV10 8EA	Bushbury North					
BU5	Temple Baptist Church, 30 Three Tuns Lane, WV10 6BD	Bushbury North					
BU6	Fordhouses Baptist Church, Winchester Road, WV10 6EJ	Bushbury North	with BU1				
BY1	Bushbury Triangle Management Centre, 74 Stanley Road, WV10 9EL	Bushbury South & Low Hill					
BY2	Low Hill Community Hub, Kempthorne Avenue, WV10 9JJ	Bushbury South & Low Hill	with BY3				
BY3	Low Hill Community Hub, Kempthorne Avenue, WV10 9JJ	Bushbury South & Low Hill	with BY2				
BY4	Good Shepherd Centre, Second Avenue, Low Hill, WV10 9PE	Bushbury South & Low Hill	with BY5				
BY5	Good Shepherd Centre, Second Avenue, Low Hill, WV10 9PE	Bushbury South & Low Hill	with BY4				
BY6	Tenants Meeting Room, Coven Lodge, Coven Street, WV10 9AX	Bushbury South & Low Hill					
EP1	East Park Methodist Church Hall, Brooklands Parade, WV1 2ND	East Park	with EP3				
EP2	Eastfield Community Centre, Colliery Road, WV1 2QY	East Park					
EP3	East Park Methodist Church Hall, Brooklands Parade, WV1 2ND	East Park	with EP1				
EP4	Portobello Community Centre, Hill Road, WV13 3TT	East Park	with BN2				
EP5	East Park Library & Neighbourhood Centre, Hurstbourne Crescent, WV1 2EE	East Park					
EP6	Stowheath Day Training Centre, Stowheath Lane, WV1 2TW	East Park					
EN1	All Saints Community Centre, All Saints Road, WV2 1EL	Ettingshall North					Yes
EN2	St Martin`s Church Hall, Parkfield Grove, WV2 2BG	Ettingshall North					
EN3	Memorial Hall, George Street, WV2 2LY	Ettingshall North					



EN4	Parkfield Primary School, Dimmock Street, Parkfield, WV4 6HB	Ettingshall North			Yes	No	
EN5	Bilston People`s Centre, Excel Church, Wolverhampton Street, WV14 0LT	Ettingshall North	with BN6				
ES1	Hilton Hall Community Centre, Hilton Road, WV4 6DR	Ettingshall South and Spring Vale					
ES2	Springvale Library, Bevan Avenue, WV4 6SG	Ettingshall South and Spring Vale					
ES3	Holy Trinity Church Hall, Farrington Road, WV4 6QH	Ettingshall South and Spring Vale					
ES4	Lanesfield Methodist Church, Laburnum Rd, WV4 6PG	Ettingshall South and Spring Vale					
ES5	Hurst Hill Methodist Church, Hurst Road, WV14 9EU	Ettingshall South and Spring Vale	with SV6				
ES6	Hurst Hill Methodist Church, Hurst Road, WV14 9EU	Ettingshall South and Spring Vale	with SV5				
ES7	Temporary Polling Station, Overfield Drive, WV14 9XW	Ettingshall South and Spring Vale					Yes
FP1	Neil Dougherty Education and Resource Centre, Masefield Road, WV10 8SA	Fallings Park					
FP2	Long Knowle Community Hub, Wood End Road, WV11 1YG	Fallings Park	with FP3				
FP3	Long Knowle Community Hub, Wood End Road, WV11 1YG	Fallings Park	with FP2				
FP4	D`Eyncourt Primary School, Mullett Road, Wednesfield, WV11 1DD	Fallings Park			Yes	Yes	
FP5	Fallings Park Methodist Church, Wimborne Road, WV10 0NN	Fallings Park					
FP6	Old Fallings United Reformed Church, Old Fallings Lane, Wolverhampton, WV10 8BH	Fallings Park					
GR1	Brickkiln Community Centre, Cherry Street, WV3 0QW	Graiseley					
GR2	Bingley Strengthening Families Hub, Norfolk Road, Pennfields, WV3 0JE	Graiseley					
GR3	Lea Road Community Church URC, Lea Road community Centre URC, Lea Road, WV3 0LW	Graiseley					
GR4	Bradmore Community Centre, Birches Barn Road, WV3 7BN	Graiseley					
GR5	Beckminster Methodist Church, Birches Barn Road, Penn Fields, WV3 7BQ	Graiseley					

GR6	St Philip`s Church, Church Road, Bradmore, WV3 7EN	Graiseley					
HT1	NTCG Harvest Temple Church, 1 Wolverhampton Road, WV10 0PD	Heath Town	with HT2				
HT2	NTCG Harvest Temple Church, 1 Wolverhampton Road, WV10 0PD	Heath Town	with HT1				
HT3	Holy Trinity Church Hall - Heath Town, Bushbury Road, WV10 0LY	Heath Town					
HT4	St Patrick's RC Church Hall, Rear of St Patrick's RC Church, Wolverhampton Road, WV10 0QQ	Heath Town					
HT5	The Royal British Legion, Vicarage Road, Wednesfield, WV11 1SF	Heath Town					
MH1	Uplands Junior School, Finchfield Road West, WV3 8BA	Merry Hill			Yes	No	
MH2	Swanmore Community Centre, Swanmore Close, WV3 7JY	Merry Hill					
MH3	St Joseph`s Church Hall, Coalway Road, WV3 7LF	Merry Hill	with MH4				
MH4	St Joseph`s Church Hall, Coalway Road, WV3 7LF	Merry Hill	with MH3				
MH5	Warstones Library, Pinfold Grove, WV4 4PT	Merry Hill					
MH6	Springdale Methodist Church and Community Centre, Warstones Road, WV4 4LF	Merry Hill	with PN2	Yes			
OX1	Pendeford Seventh-Day Adventist Church, Ryefield, WV8 1UD	Oxley					
OX2	Pendeford Community Hub, Whitburn Close, WV9 5NJ	Oxley	with OX3				
OX3	Pendeford Community Hub, Whitburn Close, WV9 5NJ	Oxley	with OX2				
OX4	Rakegate Primary School, Rakegate Close, Pedestrian access Sandwell Road, WV10 6US	Oxley			Yes	No	
OX5	Polish Catholic Centre, Stafford Road, WV10 6DQ	Oxley	with OX6				
OX6	Polish Catholic Centre, Stafford Road, WV10 6DQ	Oxley	with OX5				
OX7	Temporary polling station on Gatehouse Pub Car Park, Donnington Grove, WV10 6EE	Oxley					Yes
PK1	Cranmer Methodist Church, 289 New Hampton Road West, WV6 0RS	Park					
PK2	St Judes Church Hall, St Judes Road, WV6 0EB	Park					
PK3	St Judes CE Primary Academy, Paget Road, WV6 0DT	Park			Yes	Yes	
PK4	Bantock House, Bantock Park, WV3 9LQ	Park					

PK5	Zion City Tabernacle, Compton Road, WV3 9QB	Park					
PK6	Tenants Meeting Room, Upper Vauxhall, WV1 4SX	Park					
PN1	St Michael`s Church, 173 Coalway Road, Penn, WV3 7ND	Penn					
PN2	Springdale Methodist Church and Community Centre, Warstones Road, WV4 4LF	Penn	with MH6				
PN3	Penn United Reformed Church Hall, Penn Road, WV4 5QF	Penn					
PN4	Woodfield Sports and Social Club, Woodfield Avenue, WV4 4AD	Penn					
PN5	St Aidan`s Church, Mount Road, WV4 5SW	Penn					
PN6	Penn Bowling and Social Club, Manor Road, WV4 5PY	Penn					
PN7	St Bartholomew`s Church Hall, Vicarage Road, WV4 5HU	Penn					
SP1	Christian Pentecostal Church Hall, Gorsebrook Road, WV6 0PB	St Peters					
SP2	Gloucester Street Community Centre, Gloucester Street, WV6 0PT	St Peters					
SP3	Newhampton Arts Centre, Dunkley Street, WV1 4AN	St Peters					
SP4	University of Wolverhampton, Chaplaincy Building, Molineux Street, WV1 1DT	St Peters					
SP5	NTCG Harvest Temple Church, 1 Wolverhampton Road, WV10 0PD	St Peters	with HT1 and HT2	Yes			
SP6	Wolverhampton Central Seventh Day Adventist Church, Oxford Street, WV1 3SA	St Peters	with SP8				
SP7	Wolverhampton Art Gallery, Lichfield Street, WV1 1DU	St Peters					
SP8	Wolverhampton Central Seventh Day Adventist Church, Oxford Street, WV1 3SA	St Peters	with SP6				
TR1	Christ The King Church, Pendeford Avenue, WV6 9EJ	Tettenhall Regis					
TR2	Claregate Pavillion, Claregate Playing Fields, WV6 9PZ	Tettenhall Regis					
TR3	St Michael`s CE School, Lower Street, Tettenhall, WV6 9AF	Tettenhall Regis			Yes	Yes	
TR4	St Michael`s Parish Centre, Room Behind Tettenhall	Tettenhall Regis		Yes			

	Library, Off Upper Street, WV6 8QF						
TR5	The Kings School, Regis Road, WV6 8XF	Tettenhall Regis	with TR6		Yes	Open	
TR6	The Kings School, Regis Road, WV6 8XF	Tettenhall Regis	with TR5		Yes	Open	
TW1	Church Hall Newman Centre, St Thomas of Canterbury RC Church, Haywood Drive, WV6 8RF	Tettenhall Wightwick					
TW2	Temporary Polling Station, Sainsbury's Local (on car park), 24 Bridgnorth Road, WV6 8AA	Tettenhall Wightwick	Split in to two stations				Yes
TW3	Tettenhall Wood United Reformed Church, Mount Road, WV6 8HT	Tettenhall Wightwick					
TW4	Endeavour Academy, Tinacre Hill, WV6 8DA	Tettenhall Wightwick			Yes	Open	
TW5	Church of Good Shepherd, Church hall, Windmill Lane, WV3 8HJ	Tettenhall Wightwick					
TW6	St Columbas Church Hall, St Columbas Church, Castlecroft Road, WV3 8BZ	Tettenhall Wightwick					
WN1	Wood End Primary School, Wood End Road, WV11 1YQ	Wednesfield North			Yes	No	
WN2	Ashmore Park Community Hub, 82 Griffiths Drive, WV11 2LH	Wednesfield North	with WN5				
WN3	Ashmore Park Baptist Church, Griffiths Drive, Ashmore Park, WV11 2JW	Wednesfield North					
WN4	Temporary Station on Griffiths Road, Top of Higgs Road, WV11 2PD	Wednesfield North					Yes
WN5	Ashmore Park Community Hub, 82 Griffiths Drive, WV11 2LH	Wednesfield North	with WN2				
WN6	Oak Meadow Primary School, Ryan Avenue, WV11 2QQ	Wednesfield North			Yes	No	
WS1	Seventh Day Adventist Church, Lichfield Road, WV11 1TP	Wednesfield South					
WS2	St Thomas's CE Primary School, Mattox Road, WV11 3TG	Wednesfield South			Yes	Yes (remote learning day)	
WS3	Moathouse Community Centre, 52 Moathouse Lane East, Wednesfield, West Midlands, WV11 2BB.	Wednesfield South					
WS4	Perry Hall Primary School, Colman Avenue, WV11 3RT	Wednesfield South			Yes	Yes	
WS5	Redeemed Christian Church of God, Stubby Lane, off Lichfield Road, WV11 3NF	Wednesfield South					
WS6	Wednesfield Christian Centre, Broad Lane South, WV11 3RY	Wednesfield South					



WS7	Wednesfield Community Centre, Well Lane, WV11 1XT	Wednesfield South					
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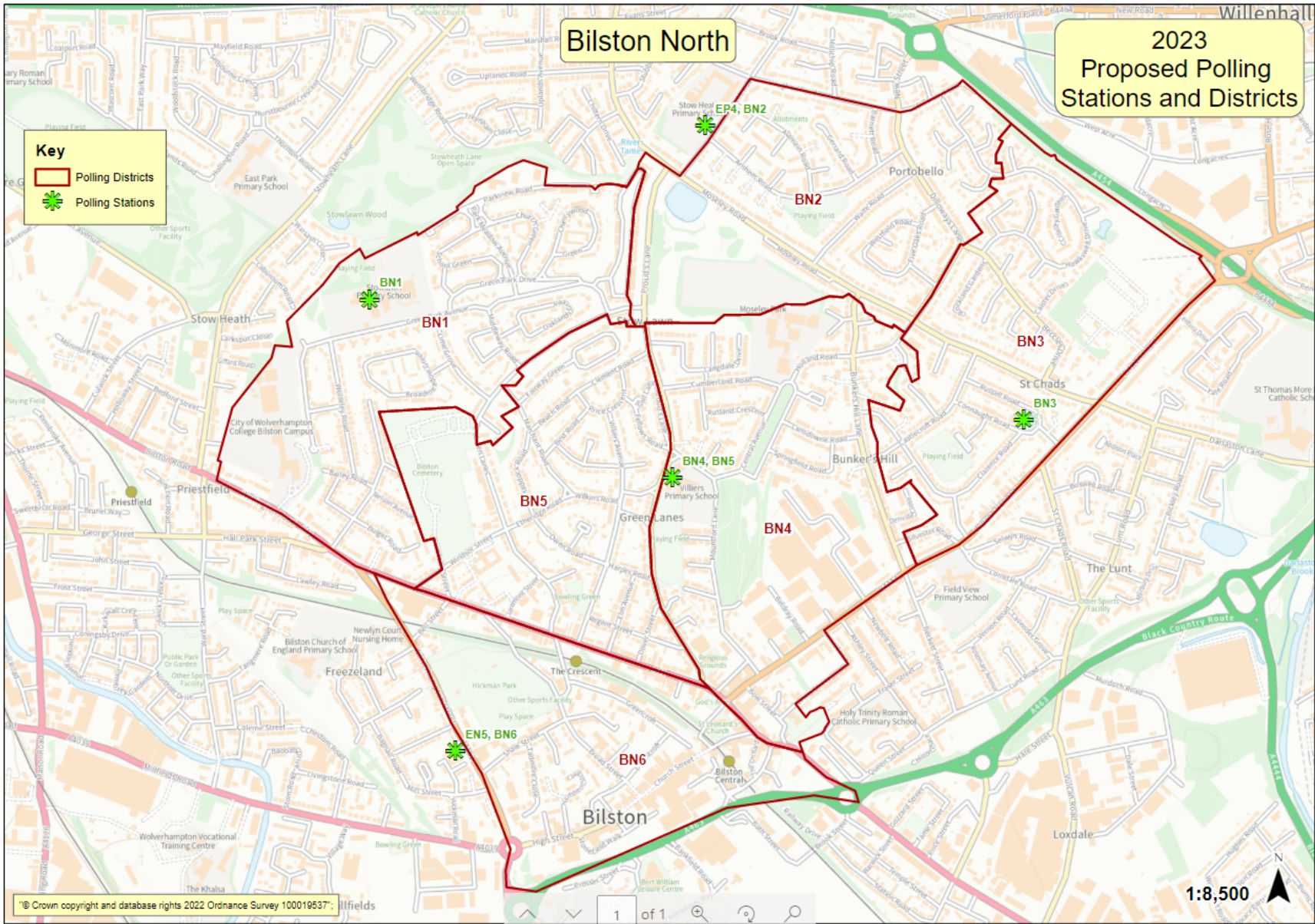
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# Bilston North

## 2023 Proposed Polling Stations and Districts

**Key**

-  Polling Districts
-  Polling Stations



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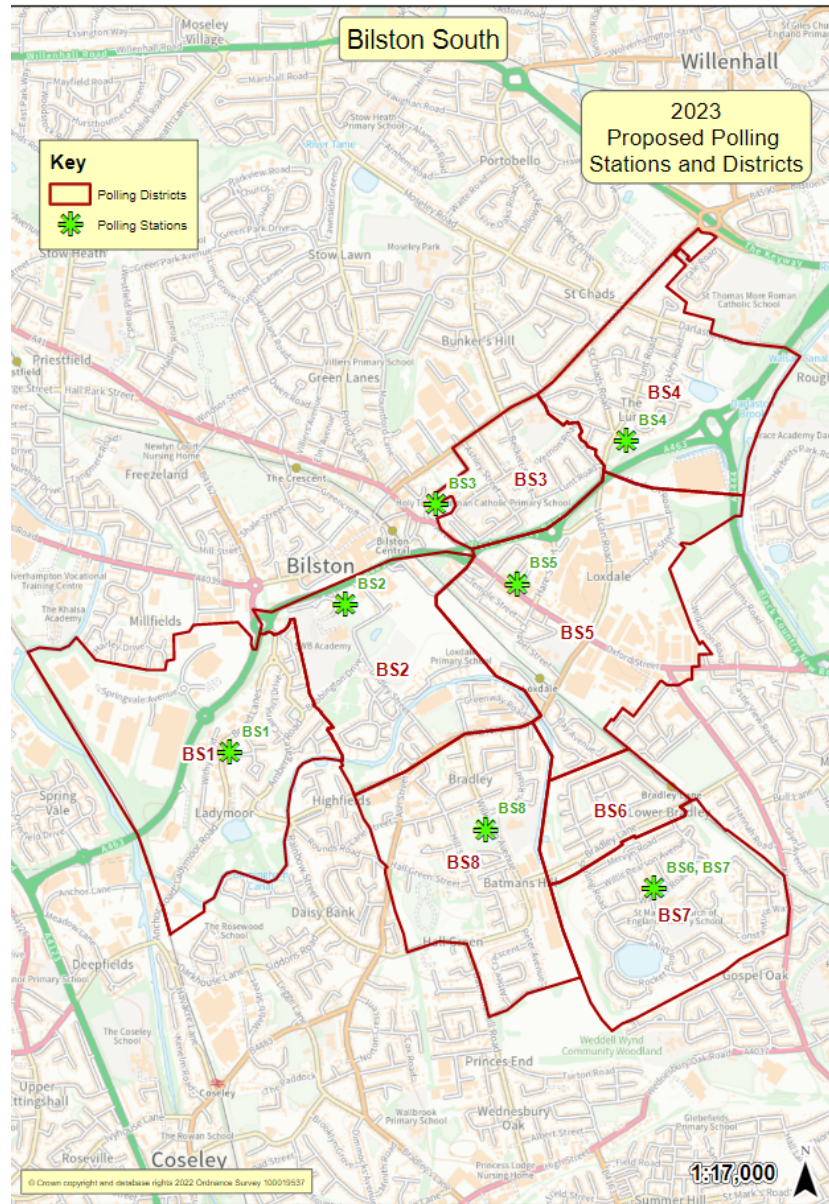
## Bilston North

Proposed polling district	Parliamentary constituency	Proposed polling place	Estimated electorate	Disabled access	Justification
BN1	Wolverhampton South East	Stowlawn Primary School, Green Park Avenue, WV14 6EH	2,090	Yes	The initial proposal was for this station to be at the Tenants Meeting Room, Hugh Gaitskell Court, Parkfield Road. However feedback was received from ward councillors that this would not be suitable due to safeguarding concerns.
BN2 - (Previously BN3)	Wolverhampton South East	Portobello Community Centre, Hill Road, WV13 3TT	1,743	Yes	This polling district has reduced in size as an area has been given away to East Park ward.  However there is no change to this polling station venue. This is a double polling station with EP4 and is based in the East Park ward but is very close and accessible.
BN3 – (Previously BN5)	Wolverhampton South East	St Chad's Church Hall, Connaught Road, WV14 6NY	2,061	Yes	There are no changes to this polling district or polling station.  Positive feedback was received from ward councillors on this proposal.



BN4	Wolverhampton South East	Villiers Primary School, Prouds Lane, WV14 6PR	1,378	Yes	<p>There were originally boundary changes to this district as it has taken in an area from the Bilston South ward.</p> <p>The initial proposal was for this station to be at Bilston Methodist Church. However, feedback was received from ward councillors that this would not be suitable due as the entrance is too close to traffic lights and would cause congestion. A concern for parking was also raised and that it would double the distance for electors to travel.</p>
BN5 (Previously BN2)	Wolverhampton South East	Villiers Primary School, Prouds Lane, WV14 6PR	1,580	Yes	<p>There were originally boundary changes to this district as it has taken in an area from the Ettingshall and Bilston South wards. This district was previously proposed as BNB, however, due to ward councillor responses, the district has been split to create BN5 and BN6.</p> <p>The initial proposal was for this station to be at Bilston Methodist Church. However, feedback was received from ward councillors that this would not be suitable due as the entrance is too close to traffic lights and would cause congestion. A concern for parking was also raised and that it would double the distance for electors to travel.</p>

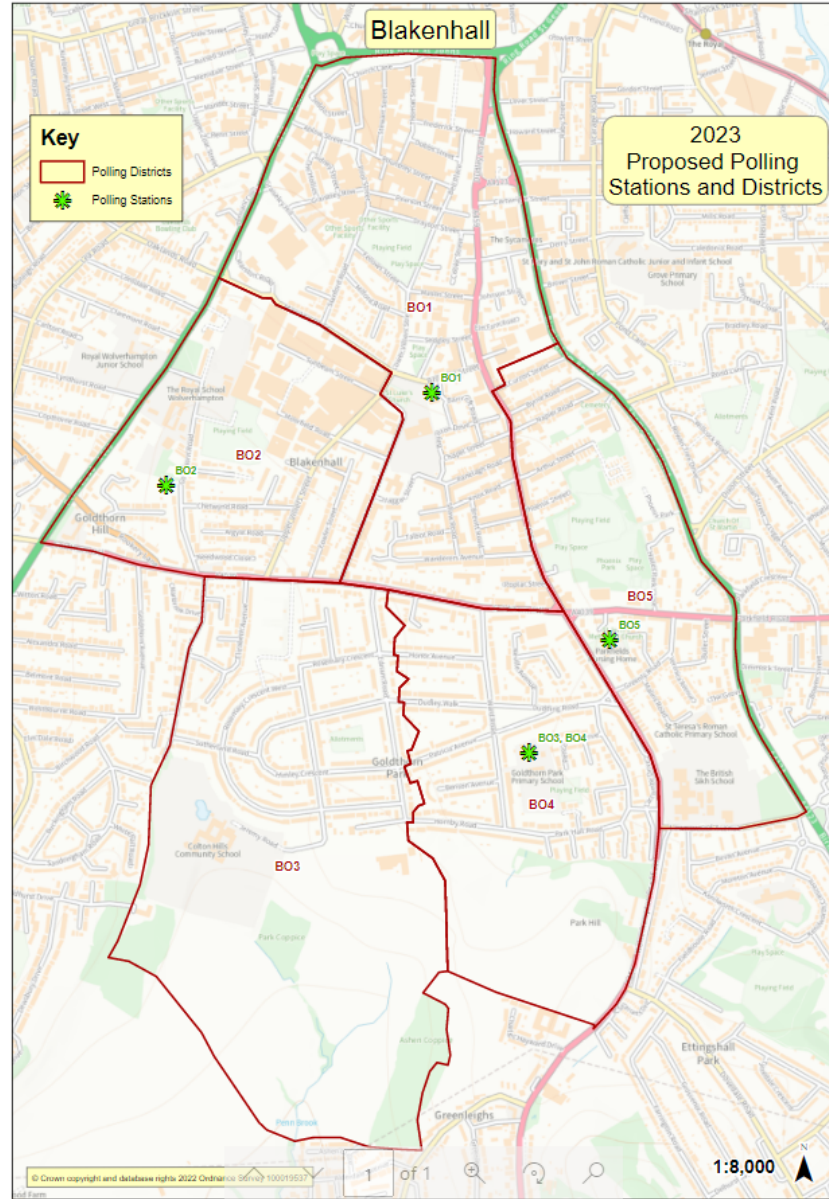
BN6 (New District)	Wolverhampton South East	Bilston Peoples Centre, Excel Church, Wolverhampton Street, WV14 0LT	874		This district was previously proposed as BNB, however, due to ward councillor responses, the district has been split to create BN5 and BN6. The new BN6 is now proposed to vote at the Excel Church.
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## Bilston South

Proposed polling district	Parliamentary constituency	Proposed polling place	Estimated electorate	Disabled access	Justification
BS1  (New District split original BS1 in two)	Wolverhampton South East	Temporary Station, Horning Drive, WV14 0RR	407		The initial proposal was to merge the original BEH and BEA to become BSA and for them to vote at Bert Williams. However, feedback was received from ward councillors that this would not be suitable and has been proposed to split this district and to have the temporary polling station at horning drive as this is closer for electors in this area.
BS2  (Split original BS1 in two)	Wolverhampton South East	Bert Williams, Nettlefolds Way, WV14 0EF	1,039	Yes	<p>The initial proposal was for the previous BEH polling district to merge with the temporary polling station on horning drive, as both districts make up a suitable polling district electorate, along with the take in from Ettingshall. The polling station was also proposed to be held at Bert Williams Leisure Centre.</p> <p>The Presiding Officer report from the local elections held on 5 May noted 'many voters commented on the situation of the voting pod. In an out of the way place'.</p> <p>Due to ward councillor responses, the final proposal is for the district boundary lines between BS1 and BS2 to be reinstated into two separate districts.</p>
BS3	Wolverhampton South East	Bilston Methodist Church, Bow	1,296	Yes	There are minor boundary changes to this polling district as an area has been given away to the Bilston North Ward.

(Previously BSB / BS2)		Street, WV14 7NB			There have been no changes to the polling station.
BS4 (Previously BS3)	Wolverhampton South East	The Lunt Community Centre, Lunt Road, WV14 7BH	1,869	Yes	There are no changes to this polling district and polling station.
BS5 (Previously BS4)	Wolverhampton South East	Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Church, Oxford Street, WV14 OPX	946	Yes	There are no changes to this polling district and polling station.
BS6 (Previously BS5)	Wolverhampton South East	Lower Bradley Community Centre, Wallace Road, WV14 8BW	926	Yes	There are no changes to this polling district and polling station. There are no other suitable alternative venues in the polling district, and this polling station has always been located outside of the district. This is a double polling station with BS7.
BS7	Wolverhampton South East	Lower Bradley Community Centre, Wallace Road, WV14 8BW	2,007	Yes	There are no changes to this polling district and polling station. This is a double polling station with BS6.
BS8 (Previously BS6)	Wolverhampton South East	Bradley Senior Citizens Centre, Wilkinson Avenue, WV14 8PS	1,851	Yes	There are no changes to this polling district and polling station.



## Blakenhall

Proposed polling district	Parliamentary constituency	Proposed polling place	Estimated electorate	Disabled access	Justification
BO1	Wolverhampton South East	Bob Jones Community Hub, Bromley Street, WV2 3AS	2,326	Yes	The forecasted electorate for existing BO1 polling district was too high, so Curzon Street has been moved to BO5 polling district. There are no changes to this polling station.
BO2	Wolverhampton South East	The Royal Air Force Association Club, 26 Goldthorn, WV2 4PN	1,352	Yes	There are no changes to this polling district and polling station.
BO3	Wolverhampton South East	Goldthorn Park Primary School, Ward Road, WV4 5ET	1,606	No	<p>The initial proposal was for this station to be Temporary Polling Station - Colton Hills Community School.</p> <p>However, feedback was received from all ward councillors that this would not be suitable due to a large proportion of the residents being elderly who could not travel or did not know where it was and the polling station would be more suitable returning to Goldthorn Park Primary School.</p> <p>The Presiding Officer report from the local election noted that a lot of voters were not happy that their polling station was not at Goldthorn Park Primary School where it had been for many years.</p> <p>Other venues explored:</p>


					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Park Hall Hotel were contacted and are unavailable to use due to being fully booked for over a year in advance.</li> <li>• Goldthorn Park Assembly Hall in Himley Crescent - there is a lack of parking and this would be difficult to access for a high electorate. After discussions, the venue were not willing to host a polling station.</li> </ul>
BO4	Wolverhampton South East	Goldthorn Park Primary School, Ward Road, WV4 5ET	1,865	Yes	The initial proposal was for this station to be St Johns Methodist Church. However, feedback was received from all ward councillors that this would not be suitable due to a large proportion of the residents being elderly who could not travel to the church or did not know where it was and the polling station would be more suitable returning to Goldthorn Park Primary School.
BO5	Wolverhampton South East	St Johns Methodist Church, 558 Wolverhampton Road East, WV4 6AA	1,628	Yes	<p>The current polling station for this district is St Theresa's Primary School, which does have to close but they do plan for polling day as an inset day.</p> <p>This venue was a double polling station for BO3 and BO4 in the 2022 local elections, but it is located in BO5 so would better serve this community and reduces the need to use schools in Blakenhall ward.</p>

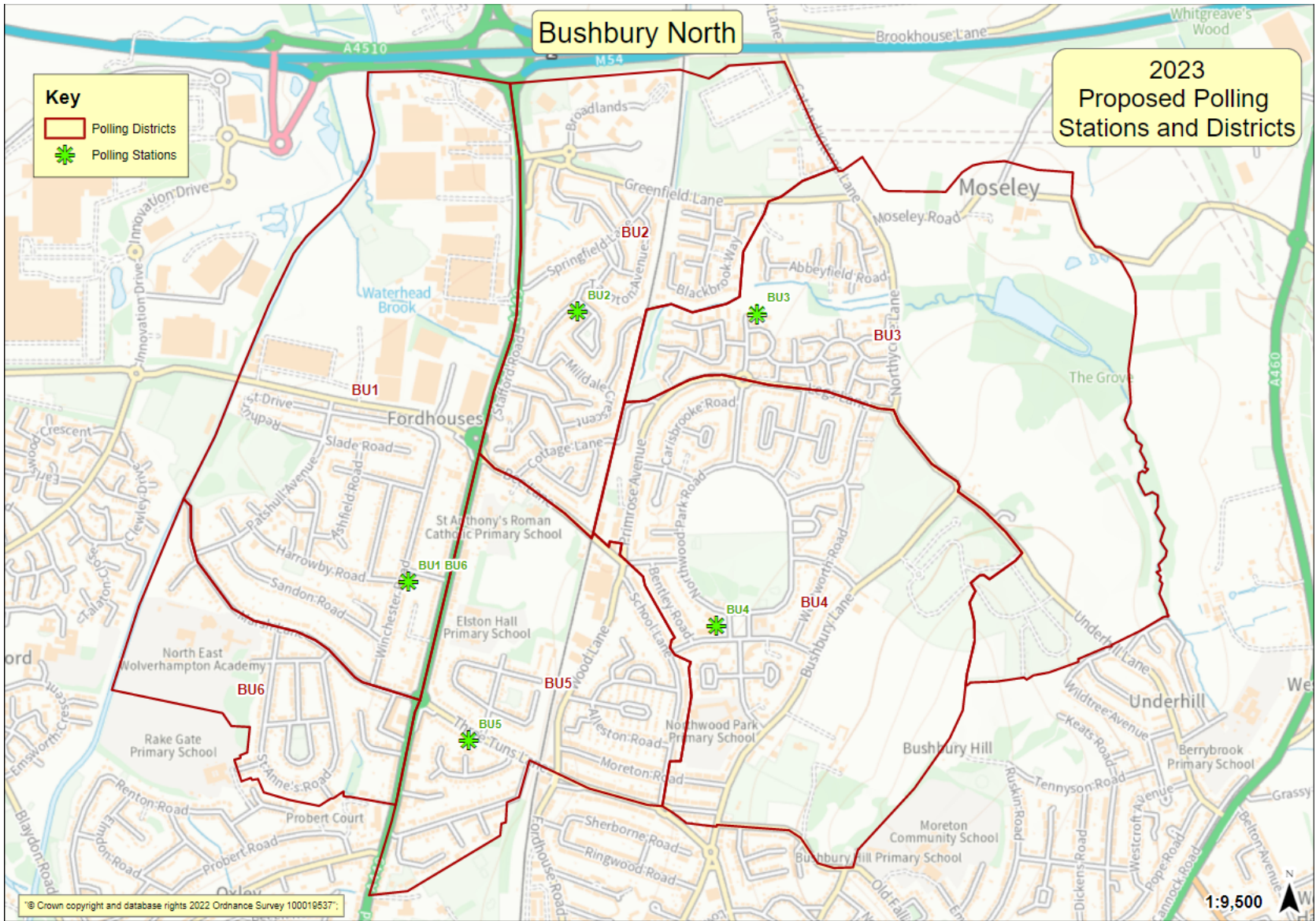


# Bushbury North

2023  
Proposed Polling  
Stations and Districts

**Key**

-  Polling Districts
-  Polling Stations

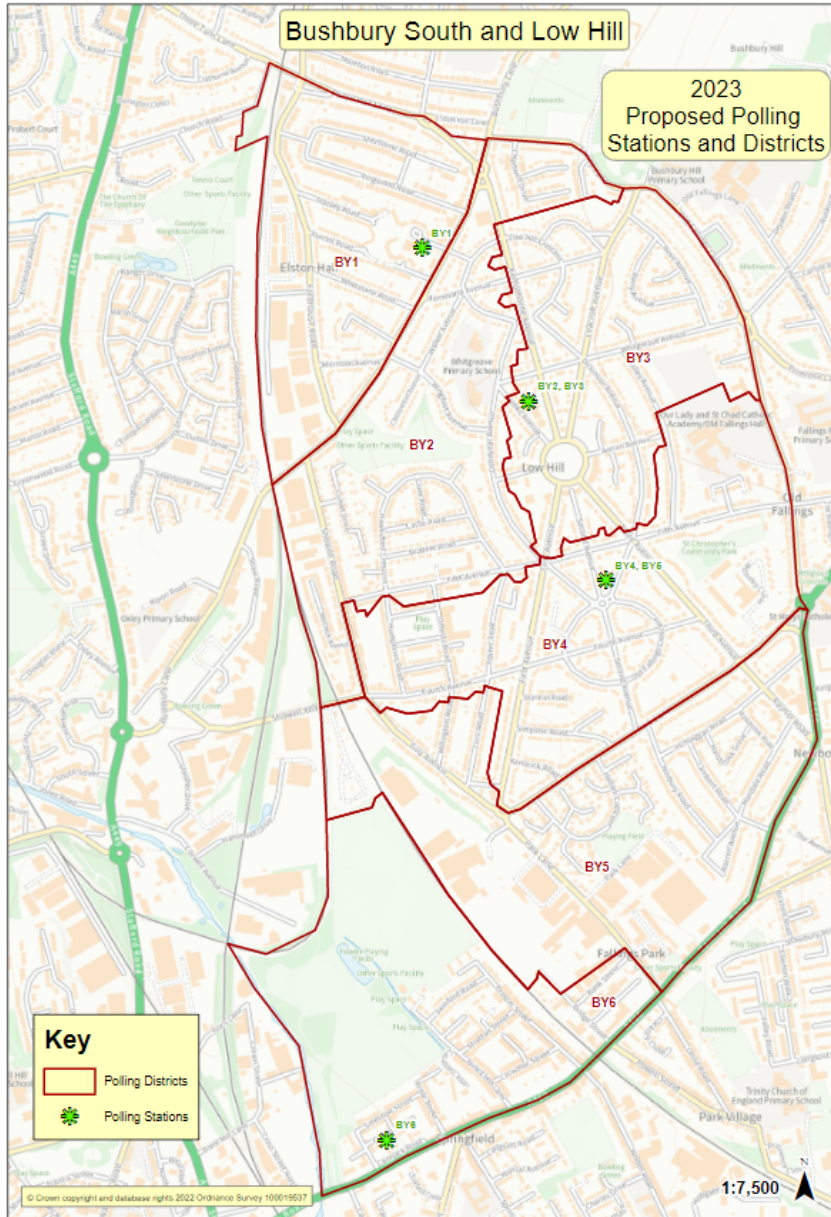


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## Bushbury North

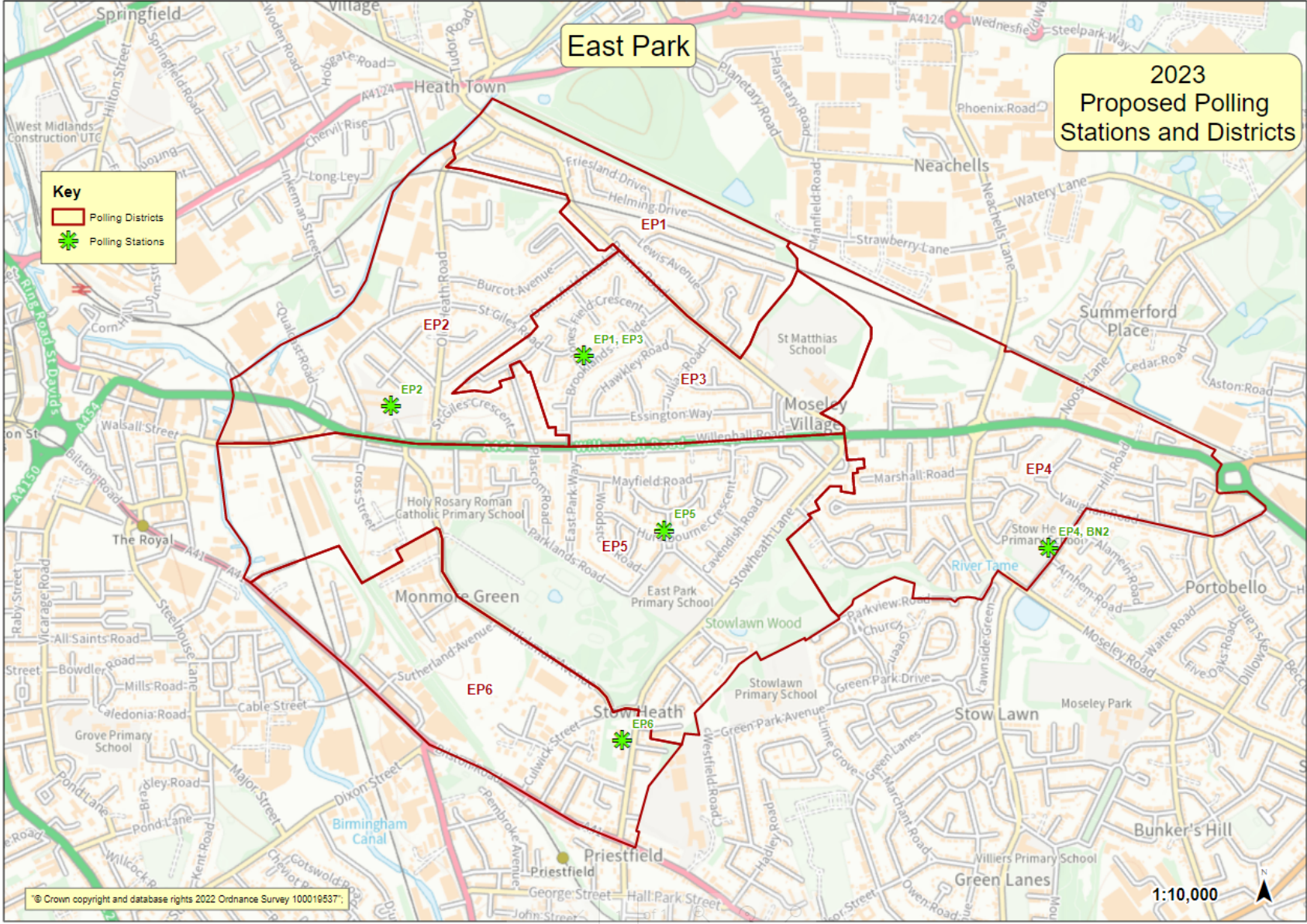
Proposed polling district	Parliamentary constituency	Proposed polling place	Estimated electorate	Disabled access	Justification
BU1	Wolverhampton North East	Fordhouses Baptist Church, Winchester Road, WV10 6EJ	2,110	Yes	There are no changes to this polling station. It is proposed this will now be a double polling station with BU6.
BU2	Wolverhampton North East	St James Church Hall, Taunton Avenue WV10 6PN	1,921	Yes	There are no changes to this polling district and polling station.
BU3	Wolverhampton North East	Temporary Station on park next to Mayfield Medical Practice, Cromwell Road, Wolverhampton, WV10 8UT.	1,116	Yes	<p>There is a small change to the district due to BU3 taking in from FP1.</p> <p>There are no changes to this polling station.</p> <p>Other venues explored:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mayfield surgery and medical centre said they are not able to assist as they do not have a separate room and the car park is not big enough for a temporary.</li> <li>• The green land would not be practical from a health and safety perspective as there is no where safe for electors to park and queue. It would also be impractical to place a site on the grass especially in wet conditions.</li> </ul> <p>It is felt that Northcote Farm remains the best option for this polling district.</p>

BU4	Wolverhampton North East	Collingwood Library, Broadway, WV10 8EA	2,268	Yes	<p>The initial proposal was for this station to be St Mary's Church. However, feedback was received from all ward councillors that this would not be suitable due to lighting concerns and the lack of parking available, whereas the library is closer and more suitable.</p> <p>There is a minor change to this polling district due to the ward boundary changes and the take in of Elston Hall Lane from Bushbury South and Low Hill Ward.</p>
BU5	Wolverhampton North East	Temple Baptist Church, 30 Three Tuns Lane, WV10 6BD	1,753	Yes	There are no changes to this polling district and polling station.
BU6	Wolverhampton North East	Fordhouses Baptist Church, Winchester Road, WV10 6EJ	899	Yes	Bushbury North is gaining one additional polling district due to taking in part of Oxley. Fordhouses Baptist Church is a large room which will accommodate a double station with BU1.



## Bushbury South and Low Hill

Proposed polling district	Parliamentary constituency	Proposed polling place	Estimated electorate	Disabled access	Justification
BY1	Wolverhampton North East	Bushbury Triangle Management Centre, 74 Stanley Road, WV10 9EL	1,231	Yes	There are minor changes to this polling district due to ward boundary changes as BY1 gives away to BU4. There are no changes to the polling station.
BY2	Wolverhampton North East	Low Hill Community Hub, Kempthorne Ave, WV10 9JJ	1,594	Yes	There are no changes to this polling district and polling station. This is located in BY3 polling district as there are no suitable venues in BY2. This arrangement has worked well for a number of years.
BY3	Wolverhampton North East	Low Hill Community Hub, Kempthorne Ave, Wolverhampton WV10 9JJ	1,674	Yes	There are no changes to this polling district and polling station. This is a double polling station with BY2.
BY4	Wolverhampton North East	Good Shepherd Centre, Second Avenue, WV10 9PE	2,239	Yes	There are no changes to this polling district and polling station. This is a double polling station with BY5.
BY5	Wolverhampton North East	Good Shepherd Centre, Second Avenue, WV10 9PE	1,580	Yes	There are no changes to this polling district and polling station. This is located in BY4 polling district as there are no suitable venues in BY5. This arrangement has worked well for a number of years.
BY6	Wolverhampton North East	Tenants Meeting Room Coven Lodge, Coven Street, WV10 9AX	1,425	Yes	There are no changes to the polling station. This district has changes as some of it has moved to the Oxley and St Peter's wards.

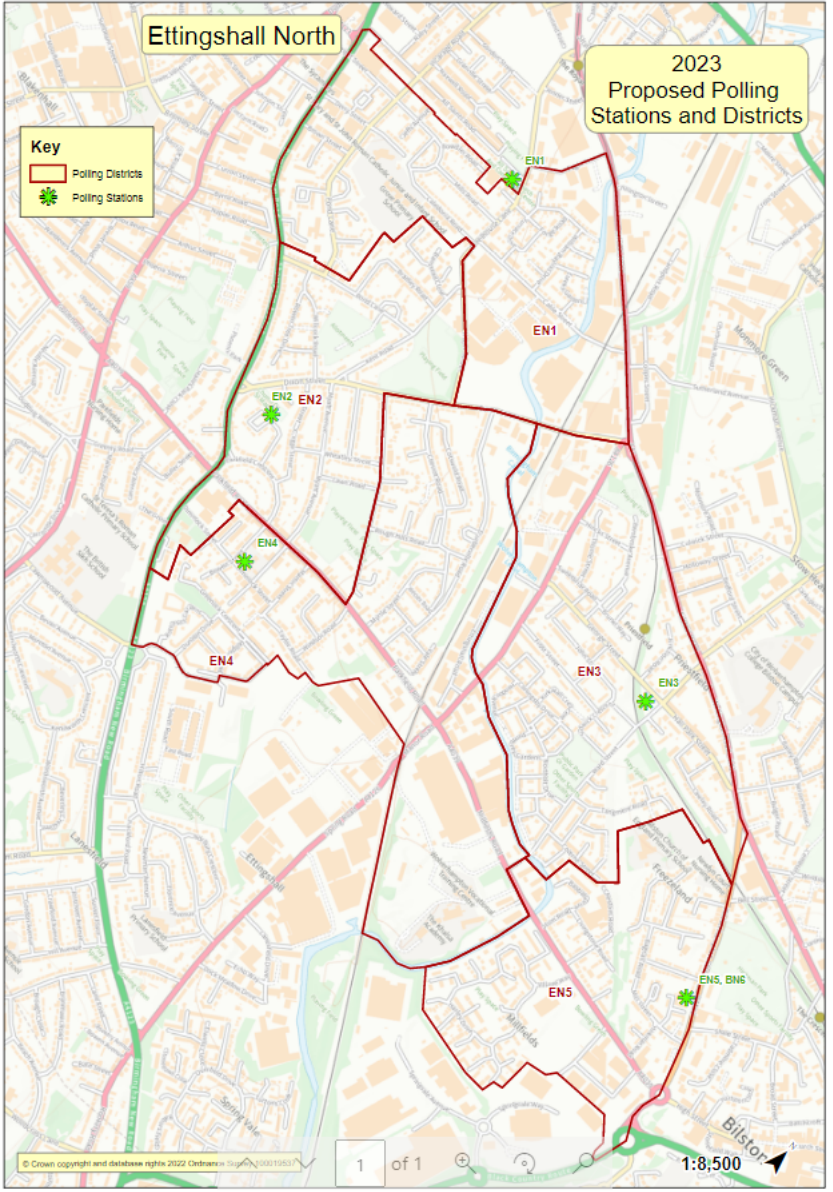


## East Park

<b>Proposed polling district</b>	<b>Parliamentary constituency</b>	<b>Proposed polling place</b>	<b>Estimated electorate</b>	<b>Disabled access</b>	<b>Justification</b>
EP1	Wolverhampton South East	East Park Methodist Church Hall, Brooklands Parade, WV1 2ND	1,374	Yes	There are no changes to this polling district and polling station. There are no suitable venues in EP1 so this is a double station with EP3. This arrangement has worked well over the past few years.
EP2	Wolverhampton South East	Eastfield Community Centre, Colliery Road, WV1 2QY	1,436	Yes	There are no changes to this polling district and polling station.
EP3	Wolverhampton South East	East Park Methodist Church Hall, Brooklands Parade, WV1 2ND	1,618	Yes	There are no changes to this polling station or polling district. This is a double polling station with EP1.
EP4	Wolverhampton South East	Portobello Community Centre, Hill Road, WV13 3TT	2,361	Yes	There are boundary changes to this district as EP4 is taking in an area from Bilston North. This is a double polling station with BN3.
EP5	Wolverhampton South East	East Park Library and Neighbourhood Centre, Hurstbourne Crescent, WV1 2EE	1,833	Yes	There are no changes to this polling district and polling station.

EP6	Wolverhampton South East	Stowheath Day Training Centre, Stowheath Lane, WV1 2TW	737	Yes	<p>Historically EP6 have voted at Memorial Hall which is in the Ettingshall Ward and electors have to cross the Bilston Road to access this polling station.</p> <p>This proposal is in the polling district.</p> <p>Other venues explored:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There are no suitable alternative venues.</li> <li>• Temporary station on Wolverhampton Wholesale Market car park is deemed not suitable from a health and safety perspective by Facilities as the car park is heavily used in the morning with traders purchasing goods and there are barriers controlling access to the site.</li> <li>• Monmore Stadium would not be suitable due to racing every Thursday night.</li> <li>• Chillington Social Club were contacted and they cannot make the venue available on Thursday due to a regular group using this room.</li> <li>• Mount Shiloh Apololistic Church - unable to get in contact with venue, but this is based in the EP5 polling district.</li> <li>• Hickman Avenue - unsuitable</li> </ul>
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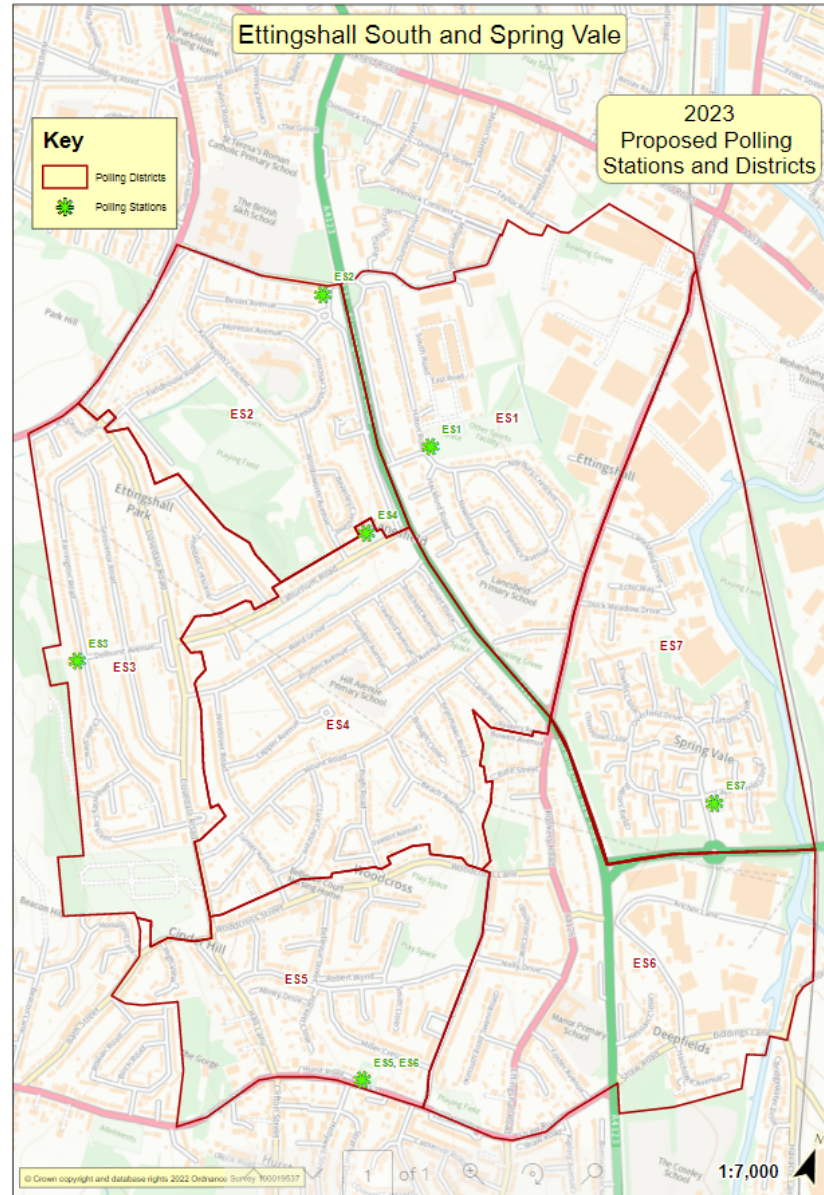




## Ettingshall North

Proposed polling district	Parliamentary constituency	Proposed polling place	Estimated electorate	Disabled access	Justification
EN1	Wolverhampton South East	All Saints Community Centre, All Saints Road, WV2 1EL	1,553	Yes	<p>There are changes to this polling district as EN1 has given away to St Peters.</p> <p>There are no changes to this polling station. This was a double polling station in the past with East Park, but this will now be a single polling station.</p>
EN2	Wolverhampton South East	St Martin's Church Hall, Parkfield Grove, WV2 2BG	1,695	Yes	There are no changes to this polling station or polling district.
EN3	Wolverhampton South East	Memorial Hall, George Street, WV2 2LY	2,249	Yes	There are no changes to this polling station or polling district.
EN4	Wolverhampton South East	Parkfield Primary School, Dimmock Street, WV4 6HB	2,423	Yes	<p>This polling district has changed due to ward boundary changes. This polling district currently uses Parkfield Primary School which does have to close, and they may forward plan it as an inset day.</p> <p>Other venues explored:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• St Teresa's Church on Birmingham New Road is now closed so unable to contact. However, they do not have a separate church hall. This may be a suitable option to explore in future.</li> <li>• Bethel All Saints Apostolic Church do not want to be a polling station. It is also not accessible via the front access.</li> </ul>

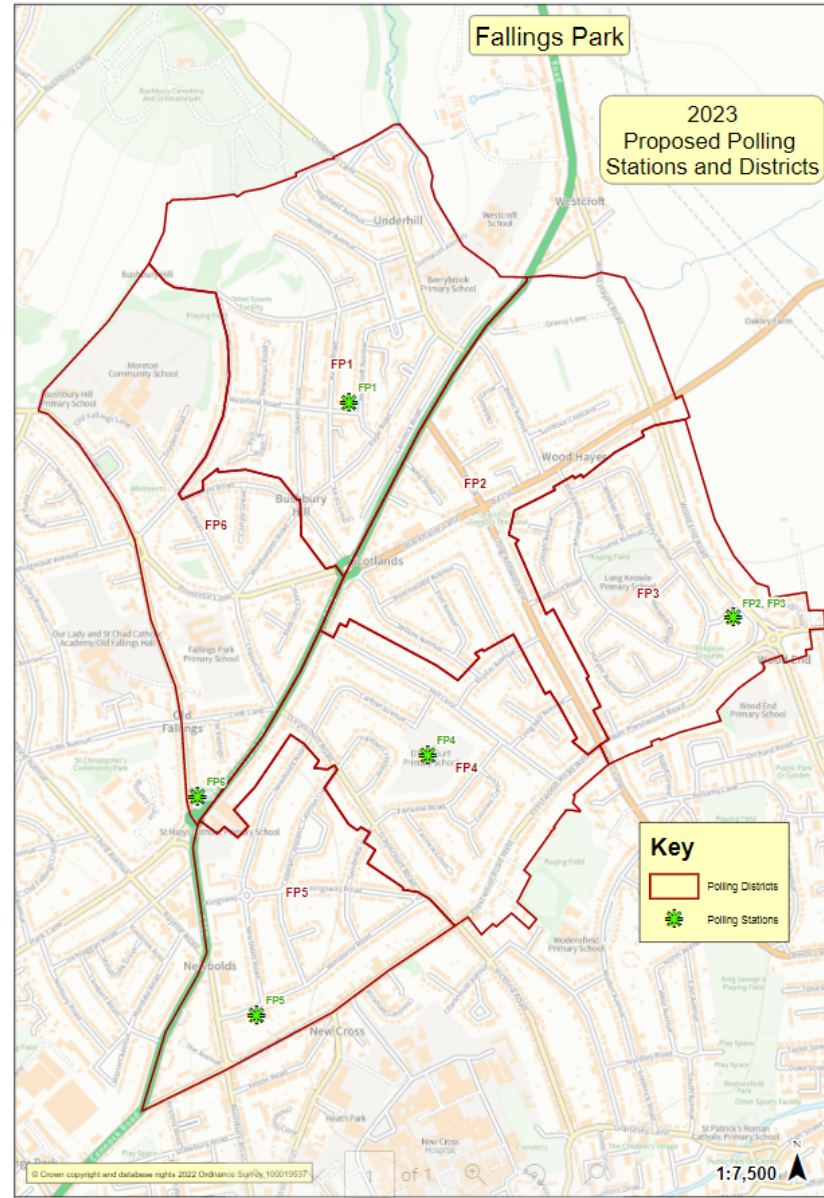
					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Memorial Hall is in the middle of the adjacent EN3 polling district and is 1.1 miles from Parkfield Primary School which is considered a reasonable distance for electors to travel.</li> </ul>
EN5	Wolverhampton South East	Bilston People's Centre, Excel Church, Wolverhampton Street, WV14 0LT	1,398	Yes	This polling district has changed due to ward boundary changes. There are no changes to this polling station.



## Ettingshall South and Spring Vale

Proposed polling district	Parliamentary constituency	Proposed polling place	Estimated electorate	Disabled access	Justification
ES1	Wolverhampton South East	Hilton Hall Community Centre, Hilton Road, WV4 6DR	1,158	Yes	<p>The initial proposal for this district was for the ward boundary to change, as it has taken in a part of the previous ET6 polling district where the polling station is located on Overfield Drive as a temporary station.</p> <p>Due to political party responses, the final proposal is for the district to be split along Spring Road to create the new ES1 and ES7.</p>
ES2	Wolverhampton South East	Spring Vale Library, Bevan Ave, WV4 6SG	1,222	Yes	This polling district has no changes and there are no changes to this polling station.
ES3	Wolverhampton South East	Holy Trinity Church Hall, Farrington Road, WV4 6QH	1,548	Yes	This polling district has changed, as it has given away the Laburnum Road to ES4. There are no changes to this polling station.
ES4	Wolverhampton South East	Lanesfield Methodist Church, Laburnum Rd, WV4 6PG	2,308	Yes	The current polling station for this district was Hill Avenue Academy. This polling district takes in Laburnum Road from ES3, as this is on the same road as Lanesfield Methodist Church, and this is a suitable venue to use within the polling district.
ES5	Wolverhampton South East	Hurst Hill Methodist Church, Hurst Road, WV14 9EU	1,215	Yes	There are no changes to this district and polling station. It is a double with ES6.

ES6	Wolverhampton South East	Hurst Hill Methodist Church, Hurst Road, WV14 9EU	1,384	Yes	There are no changes to this district and polling station. It is a double with ES5. There are no suitable alternatives within ES6. This arrangement has worked well for the last few elections.
ES7 (New District)	Wolverhampton South East	Temporary Polling Station, Overfield Drive, WV14 9XW	1,233	Yes	<p>The initial proposal for this district was for the ward boundary to change, as it has taken in a part of the previous ET6 polling district where the polling station is located on Overfield Drive as a temporary station.</p> <p>Due to political party responses, the final proposal is for the district to be split along Spring Road to create the new ES1 and ES7.</p>

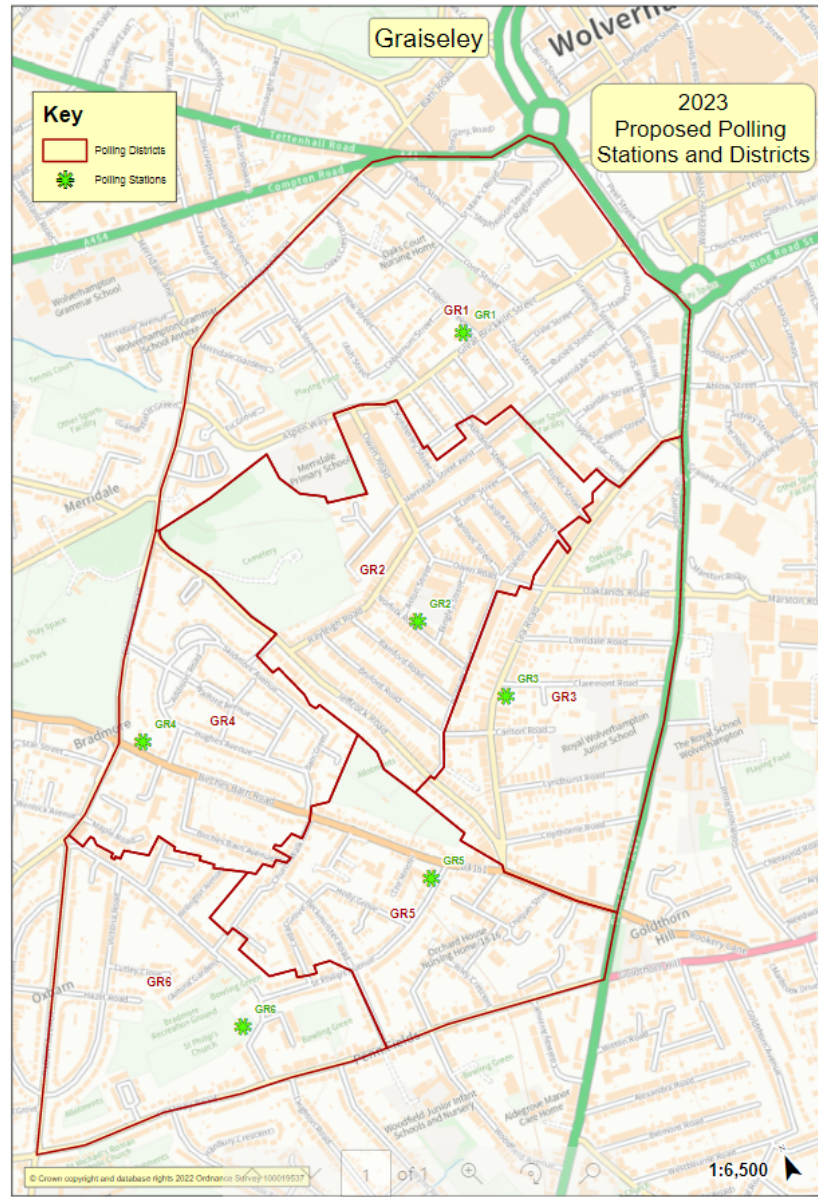


## Fallings Park

Proposed polling district	Parliamentary constituency	Proposed polling place	Estimated electorate	Disabled access	Justification
FP1	Wolverhampton North East	Neil Dougherty Resource Centre, 34 Pope Rd, WV10 8LX	1,874	Yes	This polling district has changed due to ward boundary changes. There are no changes to this polling station.
FP2	Wolverhampton North East	Long Knowle Community Hub, Wood End Rd, WV11 1YG	1,570	Yes	There are no changes to this district and station. It is a double with FP3. These arrangements have worked well in the past.
FP3	Wolverhampton North East	Long Knowle Community Hub, Wood End Rd, WV11 1YG	1,451	Yes	This polling district has changed due to ward boundary changes. There are no changes to polling station. It is a double with FP2. These arrangements have worked well in the past.
FP4	Wolverhampton North East	D'eyncourt Primary School, Mullett Road, WV11 1DD	1,673	Yes	<p>This polling district has changed due to ward boundary changes. The current polling station for this district is D'eyncourt Primary School. The school has to close and they use polling days as inset days so this has minimal impact.</p> <p>Other venues explored:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use the polling station in the adjacent polling district as this is just 0.9 miles away which is a reasonable distance for electors to travel.</li> <li>• The car park at the Methodist church is quite small but the room is very large and would easily accommodate a double polling station, and there is plenty of off-road parking.</li> </ul>



FP5	Wolverhampton North East	Fallings Park Methodist Church, Wimborne Road, WV10 0NN	1,333	Yes	There are no changes to this district and polling station.
FP6	Wolverhampton North East	Old Fallings United Reformed Church, Old Fallings Lane, Wolverhampton, WV10 8BH	1,234	Yes	<p>This polling district has no ward boundary changes. The current polling station for this area is Fallings Park Primary School and the school does have to close. Oldfallings Church is in the polling district and has good parking, the building is accessible, and they are willing to host a polling station.</p> <p>Another option to use Neil Dougherty as a double polling station as this is in the adjacent polling district as this is just 0.7 miles away which is considered a reasonable distance for electors to travel. Neil Dougherty has a room large enough to accommodate a double polling station.</p> <p>Councillor suggested potential to use fire station opposite if the church becomes unavailable. Fire station has a community room and good parking.</p>



## Graiseley

Proposed polling district	Parliamentary constituency	Proposed polling place	Estimated electorate	Disabled access	Justification
GR1	Wolverhampton South West	Brickkiln Community Centre, Cherry Street, WV3 0QW	1,778	Yes	There are no changes to this district and polling station.
GR2	Wolverhampton South West	Bingley Strengthening Families Hub, Norfolk Road, Pennfields, WV3 0JE	1,984	Yes	<p>There are no changes to this polling district, just the station. For the last 2 elections, Bingley Strengthening Families Hub has been used as an alternative to Bantock Primary School. However, the room used at Bingley Strengthening Families Hub is quite small for such a large electorate. Not using this venue would mean that Bingley Strengthening Families Hub would not have to close.</p> <p>The initial proposal was for this station to be The Association of Ukrainians in Great Britain. However, feedback was received from all ward councillors that this would not be suitable due to the polling station being outside the district. St Chads Church Hall is in a much better location in the middle of the polling district. The church have said they are not available to host a polling station.</p>
GR3	Wolverhampton South West	Lea Road Community Church, Lea Road, WV3 0LW	1,505	Yes	There are no changes to this district and polling station.

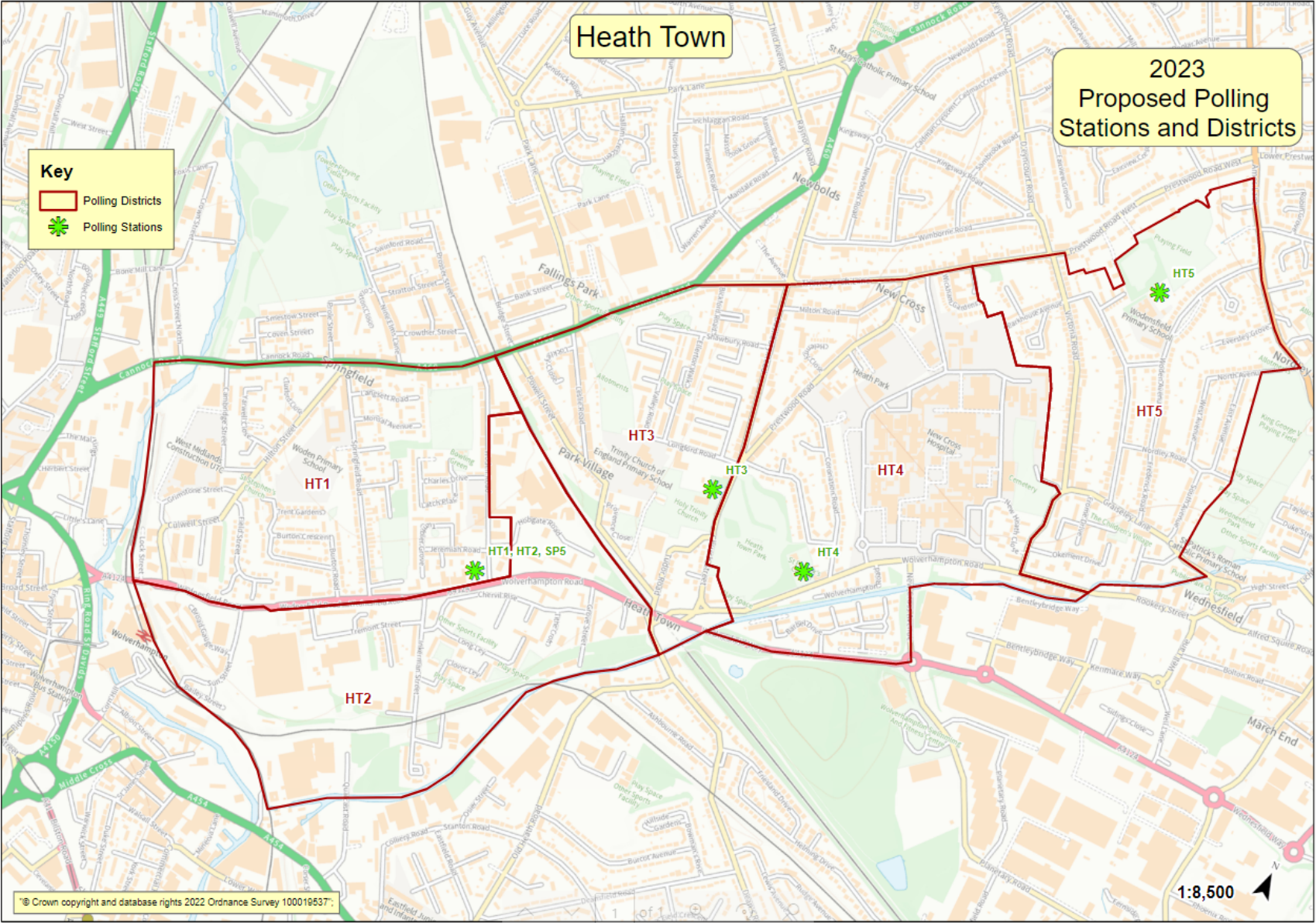
GR4	Wolverhampton South West	Bradmore Community Centre, Birches Barn Rd, WV3 7BW	1,129	Yes	There are no changes to this district and polling station.
GR5	Wolverhampton South West	Beckminster Methodist Church, Birches Barn Road, WV3 7BQ	1,047	Yes	There are no changes to this district and polling station.
GR6	Wolverhampton South West	St Phillips Church, Church Road, WV3 7EN	1,128	Yes	There are no changes to this district and polling station.

# Heath Town

## 2023 Proposed Polling Stations and Districts

**Key**

- Polling Districts
- ✱ Polling Stations

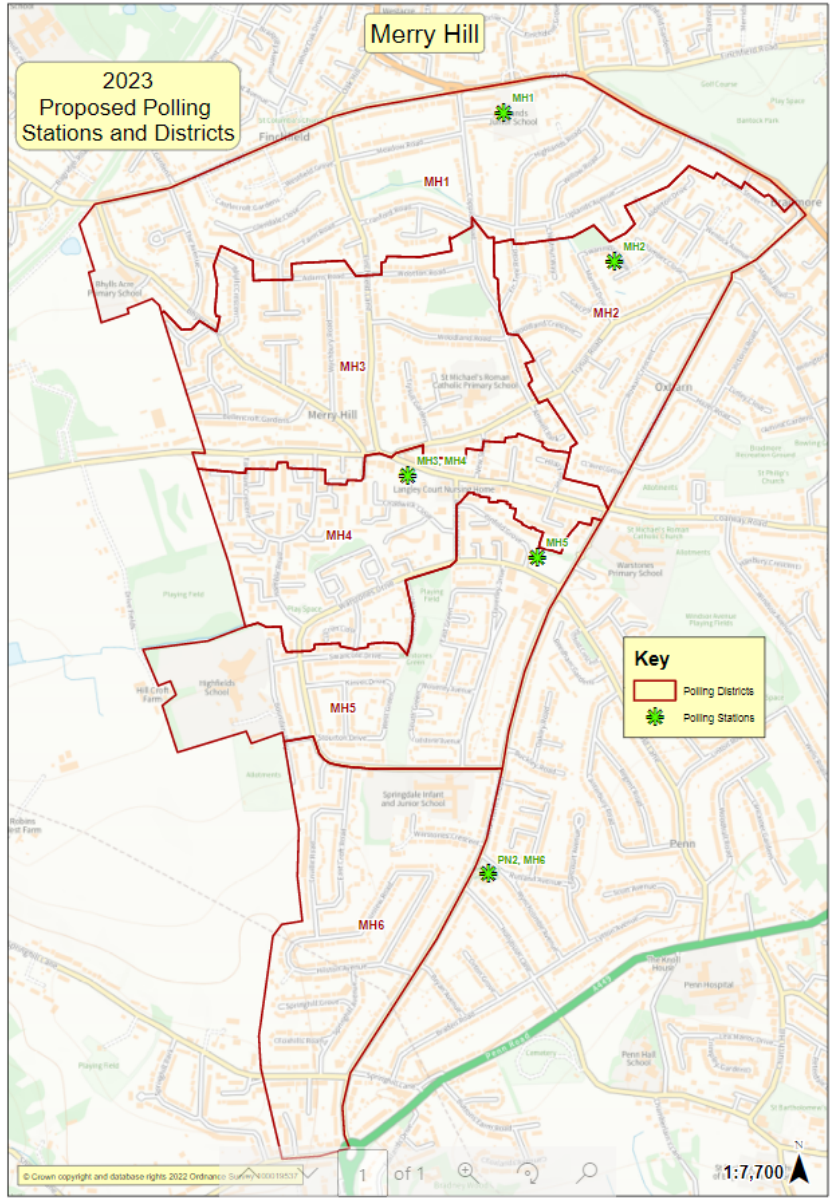


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## Heath Town

Proposed polling district	Parliamentary constituency	Proposed polling place	Estimated electorate	Disabled access	Justification
HT1	Wolverhampton North East	NTCG Harvest Temple Church, 1 Wolverhampton Road, WV10 0PD	2,055	Yes	<p>There are changes to this polling district and station. The initial proposal for the HT1 polling station was Woden Primary School. Woden Primary School does have to close but they do plan inset days for polling days.</p> <p>However, following Councillor responses, it has been proposed for HT1 to vote at NTCG Harvest Temple Church as a double station with HT2 as it is within the district and makes a good double polling station.</p>
HT2	Wolverhampton North East	NTCG Harvest Temple Church, 1 Wolverhampton Road, WV10 0PD	2,133	Yes	<p>There are changes to this polling district. There are no changes to the polling station. The polling station is located in the adjacent polling district – HT1 as there are no other suitable venues in HT2. This arrangement has worked well for a number of years.</p>
HT3	Wolverhampton North East	Holy Trinity Church Hall, Bushbury Road, WV10 0LY	1,766	Yes	<p>There are no changes to this district and polling station.</p>
HT4	Wolverhampton North East	St Patricks Roman Catholic Church Hall, Wolverhampton Road, WV10 0QQ	1,418	Yes	<p>There are changes to this district due to ward boundary changes. There are no changes to the polling station.</p>
HT5	Wolverhampton North East	The Royal British Legion, Vicarage	2,282	Yes	<p>There are changes to this district due to ward boundary changes. The old HT5 and HT6</p>

		Road, Wednesfield, WV11 1SF			<p>polling districts have been merged to keep the polling station within the district boundary. The current polling station for this area is Wodensfield Primary School. The school does close but they use it as an inset day.</p> <p>Other venues explored:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Wednesfield Community Centre is out of the ward, but it has been used historically for part of this district and has worked well. The distance from Wednesfield Primary School to Wednesfield Community Centre is 0.7 , which is considered a reasonable distance for electors.</li></ul>
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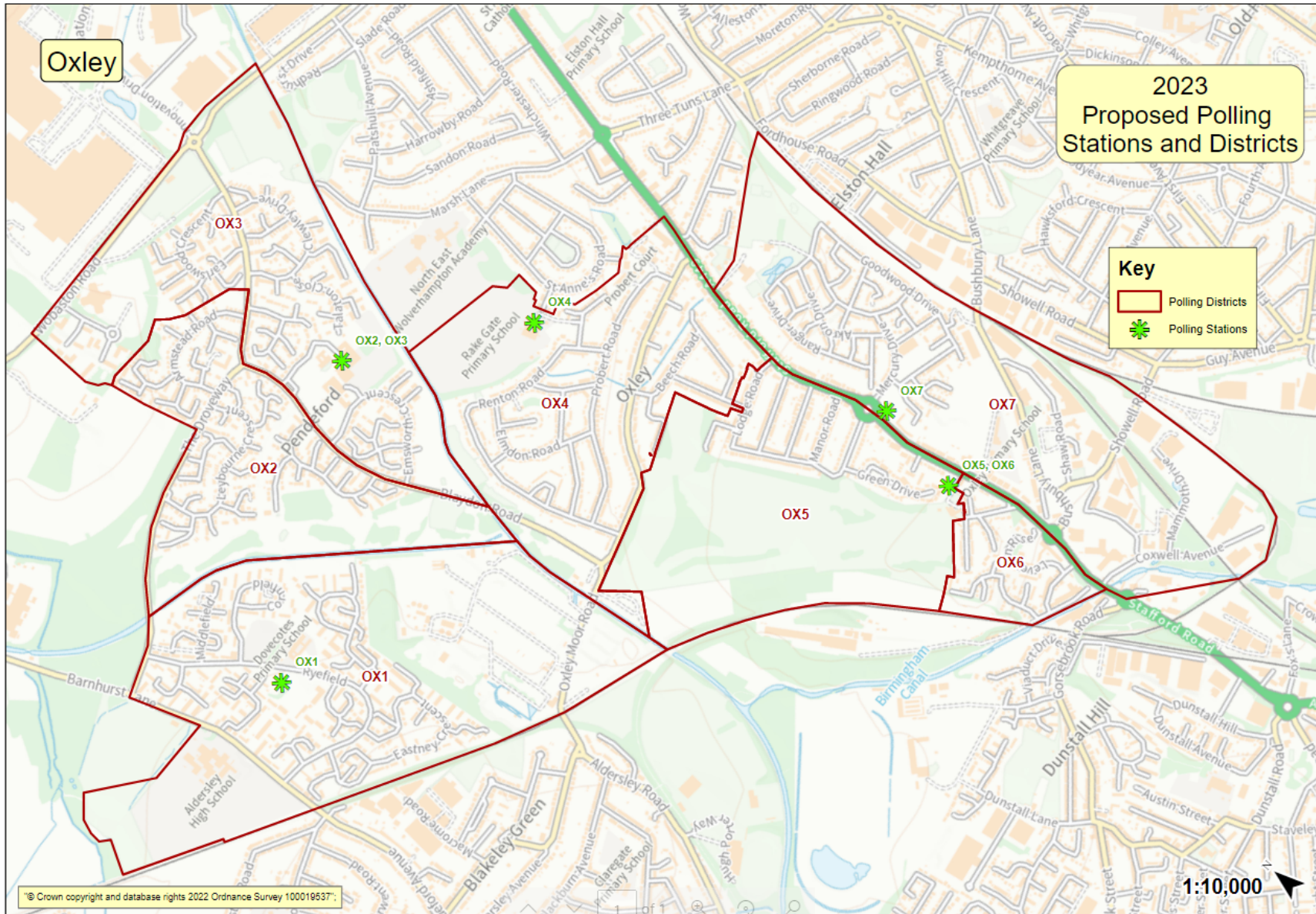




## Merry Hill

Proposed polling district	Parliamentary constituency	Proposed polling place	Estimated electorate	Disabled access	Justification
MH1	Wolverhampton South West	Uplands Junior School, Finchfield Road West, WV3 8BA	1,833	Yes	<p>There are no changes to this district and polling station. The current polling station for this area is Uplands Junior School. The school does have to close. They do not currently plan for this as an inset day.</p> <p>Other options explored:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• St columbas church hall is 0.4 miles away from Uplands Junior School. However it is out of the ward in the Tettenhall Wightwick ward. This station is already a polling station but could accommodate a double polling station.</li> <li>• Bantock House is 0.5 miles away from Uplands Junior School. However it is out of the ward in the Park ward. This station is already a polling station but could accommodate a double polling station.</li> <li>• Option to split MH1 between MH2 and MH3 to avoid using the school.</li> </ul>
MH2	Wolverhampton South West	Swanmore Community Centre, Swanmore Close, WV3 7JY	1,301	Yes	There are no changes to this district and polling station.
MH3	Wolverhampton South West	St Josephs Church Hall,	1,806	Yes	There are no changes to this district and polling station. This is a double station with MH4.

		Coalway Road, WV3 7LF			
MH4	Wolverhampton South West	St Josephs Church Hall, Coalway Road, WV3 7LF	1,724	Yes	There are no changes to this polling station. However, there are changes to the boundary lines following Councillor feedback it has been proposed that MH4 to give away Pinfold Grove to MH5 to make it easier for electors to travel to vote following the concerns raised.
MH5	Wolverhampton South West	Warstones Library, Pinfold Grove, WV4 4PT	1,127	Yes	There are no changes to this polling station. However, there are changes to the boundary lines following Councillor feedback it has been proposed that the boundary lines for MH5 are moved to follow Warstones road and Stourton Drive to make it easier for electors to vote from MH5 and MH6 districts. Also, MH5 will take in Pinfold Grove from MH4.
MH6	Wolverhampton South West	Springdale Methodist Church, Warstones Road, WV4 4LF	1,578	Yes	There are no changes to this district and polling station. This is a double station with PN2, and these arrangements have worked well in the past.

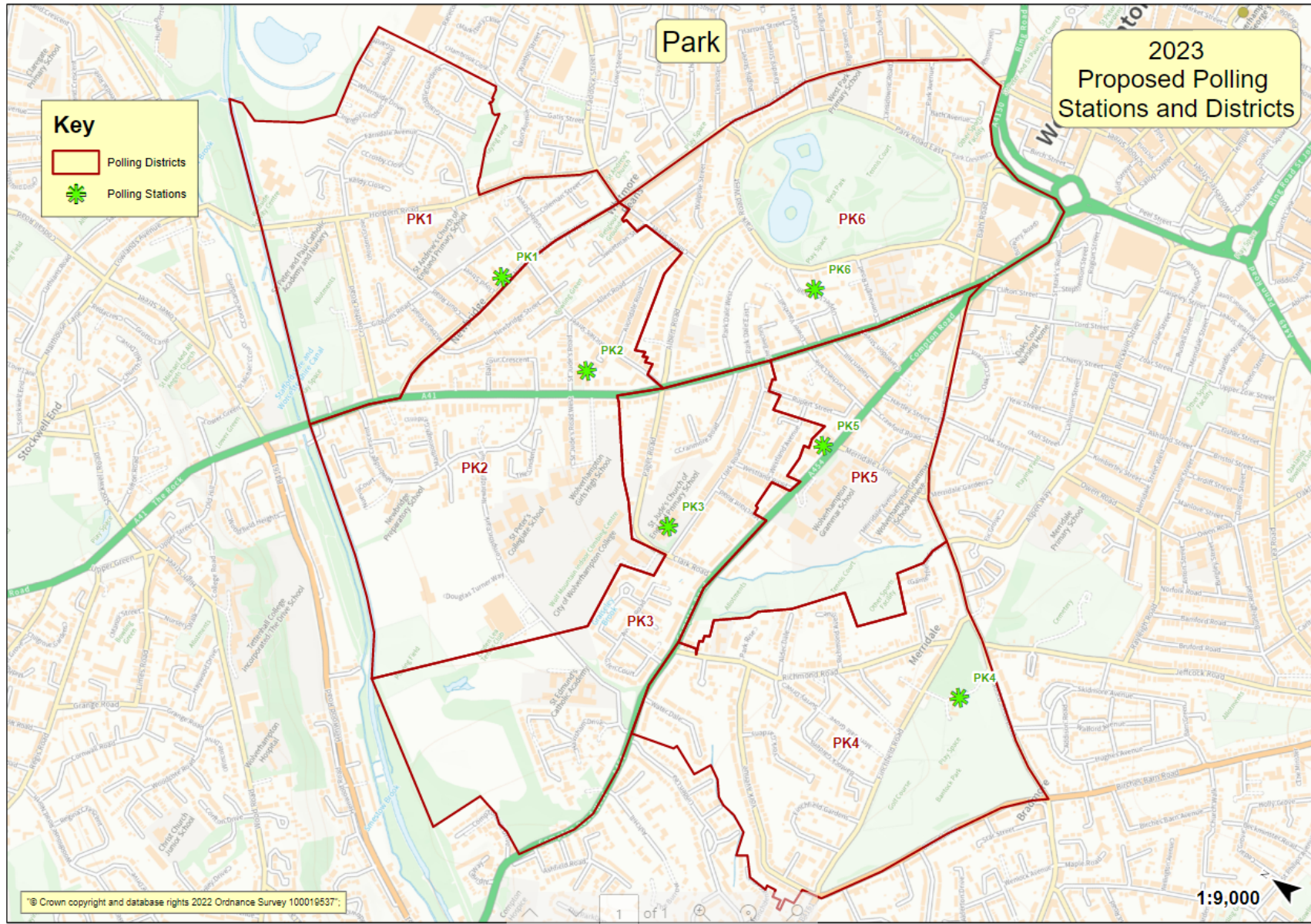


## Oxley

Proposed polling district	Parliamentary constituency	Proposed polling place	Estimated electorate	Disabled access	Justification
OX1	Wolverhampton North East	Pendeford Seventh Day Adventist Church, Ryefield, WV8 1UD	2,361	Yes	There are no changes to this district and polling station.
OX2	Wolverhampton North East	Pendeford Community Hub, Whitburn Close, WV9 5NJ	1,417	Yes	There are no changes to this district and polling station. This is a double station with OX3 and these arrangements have worked well previously.
OX3	Wolverhampton North East	Pendeford Community Hub, Whitburn Close, WV9 5NJ	1,624	Yes	There are no changes to this district and polling station. This is a double station with OX2 and these arrangements have worked well previously.
OX4	Wolverhampton North East	Rakegate Primary School, Rakegate Close, WV10 6US	1,616	Yes	<p>There are changes to the district due to ward boundary changes and following feedback from Councillors. OX4 will take in the area North of Lodge Road from OX5. This area currently votes at Rakegate Primary School. Rakegate School has to close, and they do not currently plan for this to be an inset day.</p> <p>Other venues explored:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rakegate Methodist church - it is difficult to find as it is in the middle of a housing estate and access is via the rear of community housing. There is a lack of parking (4 spaces), the room is small and</li> </ul>

					<p>the building is not accessible for wheelchair users. There is off road parking but dangerous as on a bend.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Polish Catholic Centre is 1.1 miles from Rakegate Community Centre. Electors would need to travel down the Stafford Road to attend the polling station. The Polish Catholic Centre is suitable for a double polling station as has been used by St Peters ward historically.</li> </ul>
OX5 (Previously OXE1)	Wolverhampton North East	Polish Catholic Centre, Stafford Road, WV10 6DQ	1,070	Yes	There are changes to the district due to ward boundary changes and following feedback from Councillors. The area North of Lodge Road will be merged with OX4 to allow electors to vote at Rakegate Primary School. There are no changes to the polling station.
OX6 (Previously OXE/2)	Wolverhampton South West	Polish Catholic Centre, Stafford Road, WV10 6DQ	525	Yes	This is the old SP1 polling district. With the ward boundary changes, this is still in the Wolverhampton South West Constituency. It is proposed that this would be a double polling station with OX5. If the new parliamentary boundaries align with the new ward boundaries, then it is proposed this would be one polling district – OX5. In the latest parliamentary boundary proposals, OX5 and OX6 are in the same constituency – Wolverhampton West.
OX7 (Previously OX6)	Wolverhampton North East	Temporary polling station on Gatehouse Pub Cark Park, Donnington	1,505	Yes	This is a new polling district due to the ward boundary changes which is largely the current BY7 from Bushbury South and Low Hill where the initial polling station was Goodyear Sports and Social Club in place of Bushbury Lane

		Grove, WV10 6EE OR Bushbury lane academy			Academy. The school close but they do plan polling day as an inset day.  Following feedback from Councillors the proposed polling station is the Gatehouse Car Park. This is due to Bushbury Lane Academy being too far to travel and concerns raised about crossing the Stafford Road. This is a good alternative venue to the school.
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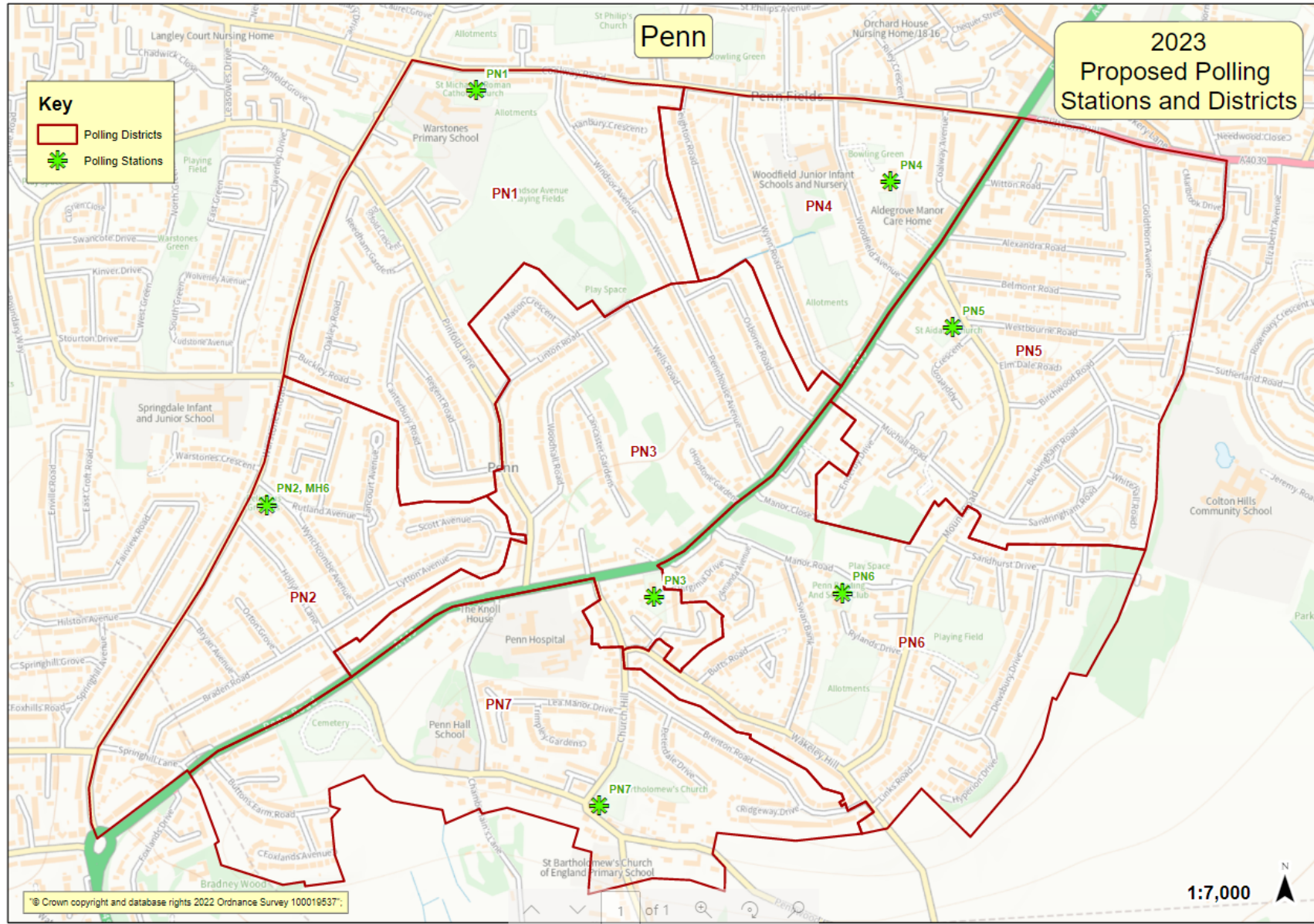


**Park**

<b>Proposed polling district</b>	<b>Parliamentary constituency</b>	<b>Proposed polling place</b>	<b>Estimated electorate</b>	<b>Disabled access</b>	<b>Justification</b>
PK1	Wolverhampton South West	Cranmer Methodist Church, 289 New Hampton Road West, WV6 0RS	2,296	Yes	<p>There are changes to this polling district because it is taking in part of St Peters – existing SP2 area as part of the boundary review. The current polling station is St Andrews Primary School. The school is open for year 6 students and staff only.</p> <p>Cranmer Methodist Church has a small car park and the room is a good size for a polling station.</p> <p>Other venues explored:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Double polling station at St Judes Church Hall in the adjacent polling district PK2 This is 0.4 miles from St Andrews Primary School which is considered a reasonable distance for electors to travel. This is just before the Tettenhall Road so electors would not have to cross any busy main A roads.</li> </ul>
PK2	Wolverhampton South West	St Judes Church Hall, St Judes Road, WV6 0EB	2,029	Yes	There are no changes to this district and polling station.
PK3	Wolverhampton South West	St Judes CE Primary Academy, Paget Road, WB6 0DT	1,445	Yes	There are no changes to this district. The current polling station for this district is St Judes Primary School. The school close but they do plan polling day as an inset day.



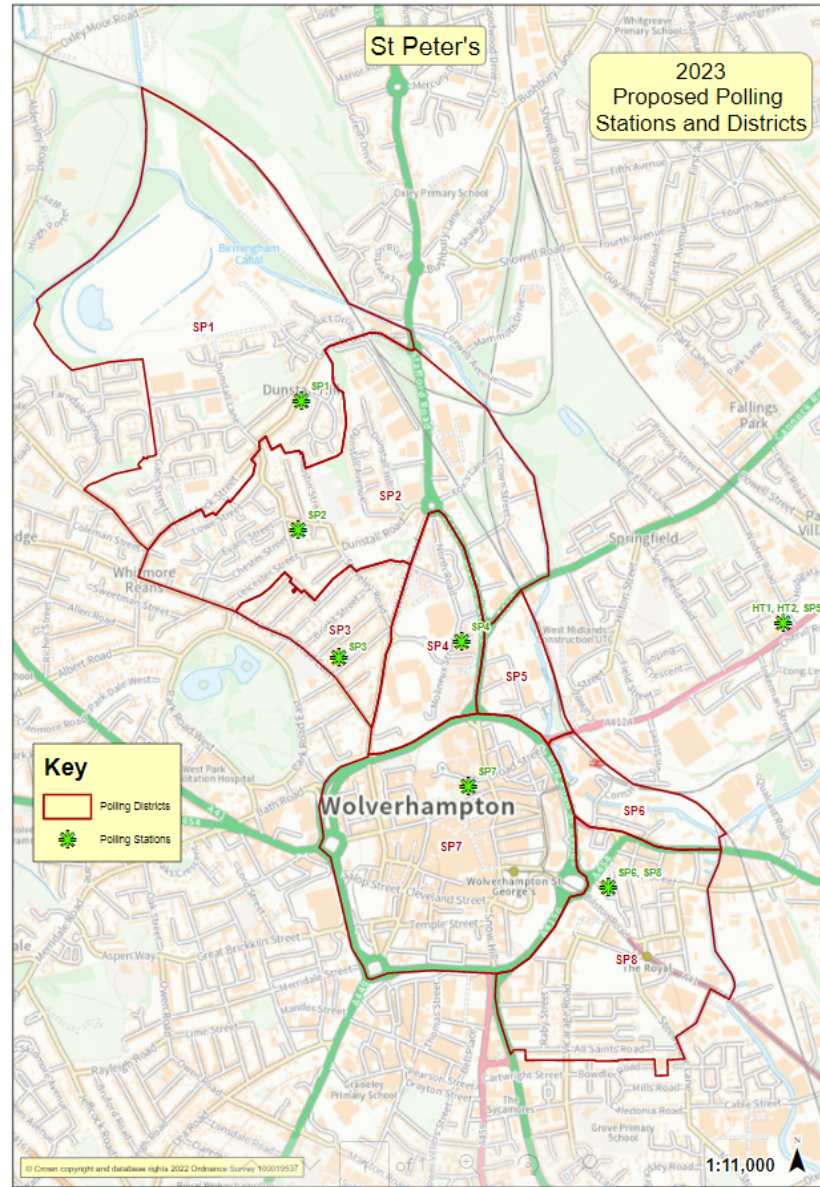
					<p>Other options explored:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Temporary Polling Station at Wolverhampton College, Paget Road. The college would remain open. This is within the polling district and is on the same road as the current polling station at St Judes. However as the school use it as an inset day it would be best to use the school venue and facilities over a portacabin.</li> <li>• To merge with PK5 and use Zion City as the Polling Station. Electors would have to cross the Compton Road but there are pedestrian crossings on this road. This is 0.5 miles away from St Judes Primary School, which is considered a reasonable distance for electors to travel.</li> </ul>
PK4	Wolverhampton South West	Bantock House, Finchfield Rd, WV3 9LQ	1,262	Yes	There are no changes to this district and polling station.
PK5	Wolverhampton South West	Zion City Tabernacle, 126 Compton Rd, WV3 9QB	1,183	Yes	There are no changes to this district and polling station.
PK6	Wolverhampton South West	Tenants Meeting Room, Upper Vauxhall, WV1 4SX	1,682	Yes	There are no changes to this district and polling station.



**Penn**

<b>Proposed polling district</b>	<b>Parliamentary constituency</b>	<b>Proposed polling place</b>	<b>Estimated electorate</b>	<b>Disabled access</b>	<b>Justification</b>
PN1	Wolverhampton South West	St Michaels Church, 176 Coalway Road, WV3 7ND	1,524	Yes	There are no changes to this district and polling station.
PN2	Wolverhampton South West	Springdale Methodist Church, Warstones Road, WV4 4LF	1,386	Yes	There are no changes to this district and polling station. This is a double station with MH6, and these arrangements have worked well in the past.
PN3	Wolverhampton South West	Penn United Reformed Church Hall, Penn Road, WV4 5QF	1,590	Yes	There are no changes to this polling station. There are changes to the boundary, as part of PN6 has been taken in by PN3 to keep the polling station within the district.
PN4	Wolverhampton South West	Woodfield Sports and Social Club, Woodfield Ave, WV4 4AF	896	Yes	There are no changes to this district and polling station.
PN5	Wolverhampton South West	St Aidan's Church, Mount Road, WV4 5SW	2,311	Yes	There are no changes to this district and polling station.
PN6	Wolverhampton South West	Penn Bowling and Social Club, Manor Road, WV4 5PY	1,518	Yes	There are changes to the boundary, as part of PN6 has been given away to PN3. The initial polling station for this district was Penn United Reformed Church as a double with PN3. However, following Councillor feedback it has been proposed for PN6 to vote at Penn Bowling and Social Club due a high electorate at the double station with PN3.

PN7	Wolverhampton South West	St Bartholomew's, Vicarage Road, WV4 5HU	965	Yes	There are no changes to this district and polling station.
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## St Peters

Proposed polling district	Parliamentary constituency	Proposed polling place	Estimated electorate	Disabled access	Justification
SP1	Wolverhampton South West	Christian Pentecostal Church Hall, Gorsebrook Road, WV6 OPB	2,153	Yes	There are changes to this polling district due to ward boundary changes. This is the usual polling station for the current SP3 polling district which works well for this community.
SP2	Wolverhampton South West	Gloucester Street Community Centre, Gloucester Street, WV6 OPT	2,417	Yes	There are changes to this polling district due to ward boundary changes. This is the usual polling station for the current SP4 polling district which works well for this community. This polling district takes in part of the previous BY5 polling district. With the ward boundary changes, part of this polling district is in the Wolverhampton North East Constituency. However, this is a trading estate and there are no residential properties or registered electors here. Therefore, it is proposed to remain part of the same polling district to be kept under review with the final parliamentary constituencies.
SP3 (Previously SPC/1)	Wolverhampton South West	Newhampton Arts Centre, Dunkley Street, WV1 4AN	1,220	Yes	There are changes to this polling district due to ward boundary changes. The initial proposal was for this district and the new SP4 to merge and electors to vote at the University Chaplaincy Building. However, due to councillor responses, the final proposal is for the original boundary line to be reinstated, and electors to vote at Newhampton Arts Centre.

SP4 (previously SPC/1)	Wolverhampton South West	University Chaplaincy building, Molineux Street, WV1 1DT	594	Yes	There are changes to this polling district due to ward boundary changes. The initial proposal was for this district and the new SP3 to merge and electors to vote at the University Chaplaincy Building. However, due to councillor responses, the final proposal is for the original boundary line to be reinstated, and electors to vote at the University Chaplaincy Building.
SP5 (Previously SPC/2)	Wolverhampton North East	NTCG Harvest Temple Church, 1 Wolverhampton Road, WV10 0PD	28	Yes	This is the part of the old HT1 polling district. With the ward boundary changes, this is still in the Wolverhampton North East Constituency. It is proposed that this is a double polling station with the new SP4. If the new parliamentary boundaries align with the new ward boundaries, then it is proposed this would be one polling district. However, in the latest parliamentary constituency proposals, this area is still in the Wolverhampton North East constituency. This is an industrial area. There are a small number of registered electors on Faulkland Crescent so in practice this would be managed as one polling station with two electoral registers for the relevant constituencies/polling districts.
SP6 (Previously SPE/2)	Wolverhampton South East	Wolverhampton Central Seventh Day Adventist Church, Oxford Street, WV1 3SA	272	Yes	This is part of the old HT1 polling district. With the ward boundary changes, this is still in the Wolverhampton North East Constituency. It is proposed that this is a double polling station with SP8. If the new parliamentary boundaries align with the new ward boundaries then it is proposed this would be one polling district. However in the latest parliamentary constituency proposals, this area is still in the Wolverhampton South East



					ward. There is a relatively small electorate, so in practice would be managed as one polling station with two registers for the respective constituencies/polling district.
SP7 (Previously SPD / SP4)	Wolverhampton South West	Art Gallery, Lichfield Street, WV1 1DU	710	Yes	The initial proposal was for the district to be renamed as SP4, however, this is the usual polling station for the current SP8 polling district which works well for this community.
SP8 (Previously SPE/1)	Wolverhampton South East	Wolverhampton Central Seventh Day Adventist Church, Oxford Street, WV1 3SA	1,471	Yes	This is a new polling district due to ward boundary changes. This makes a good polling station due to accessibility, parking and has a large room to accommodate.

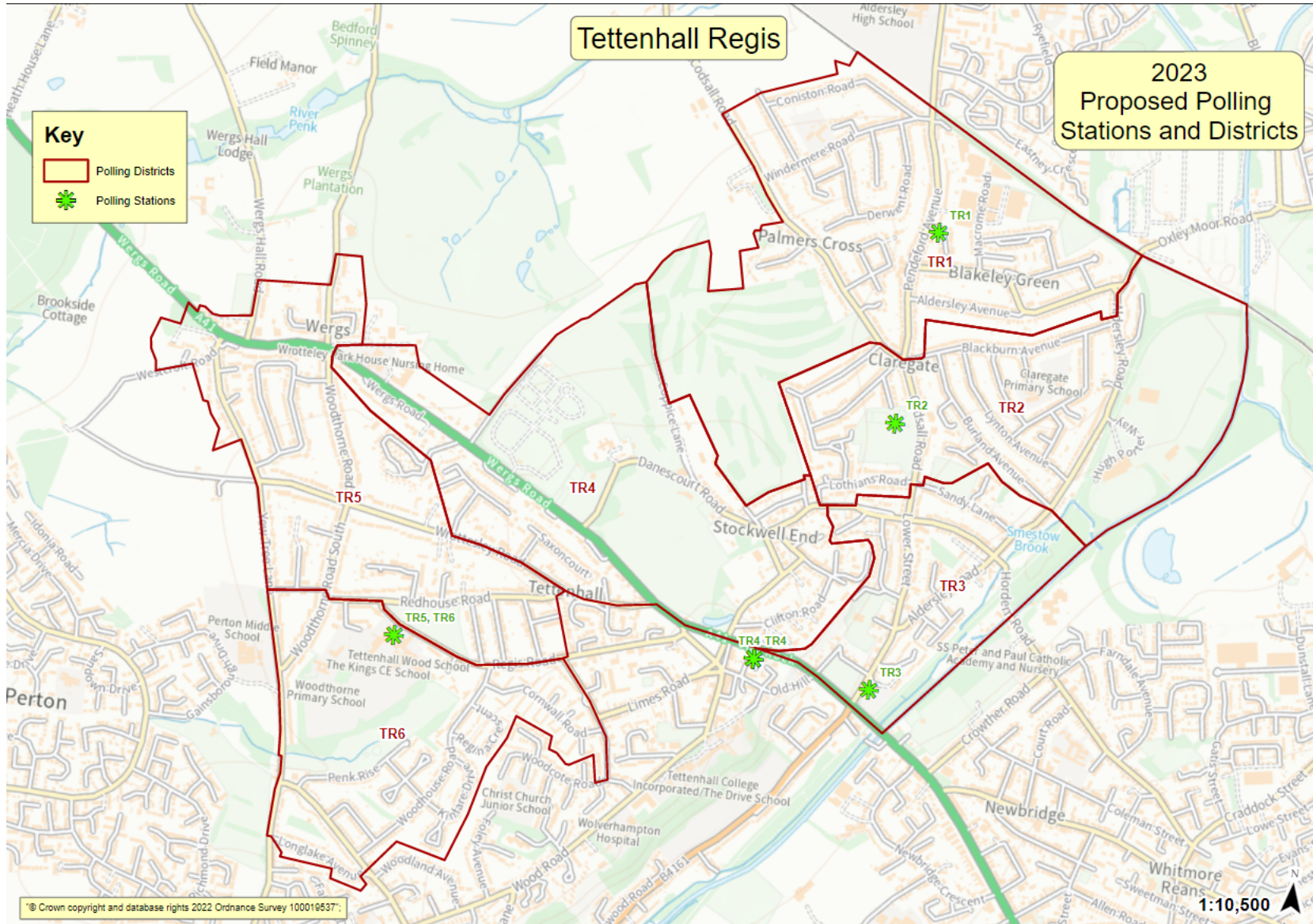


# Tettenhall Regis

## 2023 Proposed Polling Stations and Districts

**Key**

-  Polling Districts
-  Polling Stations



## Tettenhall Regis

Proposed polling district	Parliamentary constituency	Proposed polling place	Estimated electorate	Disabled access	Justification
TR1	Wolverhampton South West	Christ the King Church, Pendeford Avenue, WV6 9EJ	2,223	Yes	There are no changes to this district and polling station.
TR2	Wolverhampton South West	Claregate Pavillion, Claregate Playing Field, WV6 9PZ	2,064	Yes	<p>There are no changes to this district. The current polling station used by this district is Claregate Primary School. It does have to close, and they do not currently plan for polling day as an inset day.</p> <p>Other venues explored:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No other suitable venues have been identified in the polling district. The options are to make a double polling station in the adjacent polling district TR1.</li> <li>• The closest polling station is Christ the King Church. This is 0.7 miles away from Claregate Primary School which is considered a reasonable distance for electors to travel. The room is large enough at the church to accommodate a double polling station.</li> </ul> <p>The final recommendations are for the Pavilion building on Claregate Playing Field to be used alternatively to Claregate Primary School following feedback from Claregate Primary School and local voters.</p>


TR3	Wolverhampton South West	St Michaels School, Lower Street, WV6 9AF	1,146	Yes	<p>There are no changes to this district and polling station. The school does have to close but they do plan it as an inset day.</p> <p>Other venues explored:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Merge district with TR4 and use St Michaels Parish Centre as the polling station. This polling station is just outside of the ward in Tettenhall Wightwick, but it has been used as the polling station for TR4 for a number of years due to a lack of suitable alternatives in the TR4 polling district. St Michaels Parish Centre is just 0.3 miles from St Michaels School which is considered a reasonable distance for electors to travel.</li> </ul>
TR4	Wolverhampton South West	St Michaels Parish Centre, Off Upper Street, WV6 8QF	1,017	Yes	<p>There are no changes to this district and polling station.</p>
TR5	Wolverhampton South West	The Kings School, Regis Road, WV6 8XF	1,727	Yes	<p>There are no changes to this district and polling station. There are no suitable alternatives in the polling district. Tettenhall Wood School does have to close. However the Kings School does not have to close as they can lock down that side of the school. Therefore it is proposed that The Kings School becomes the permanent station for this polling district every year. The polling district is located in TR6 but is very close to the border and there are no other alternatives in the polling district.</p>

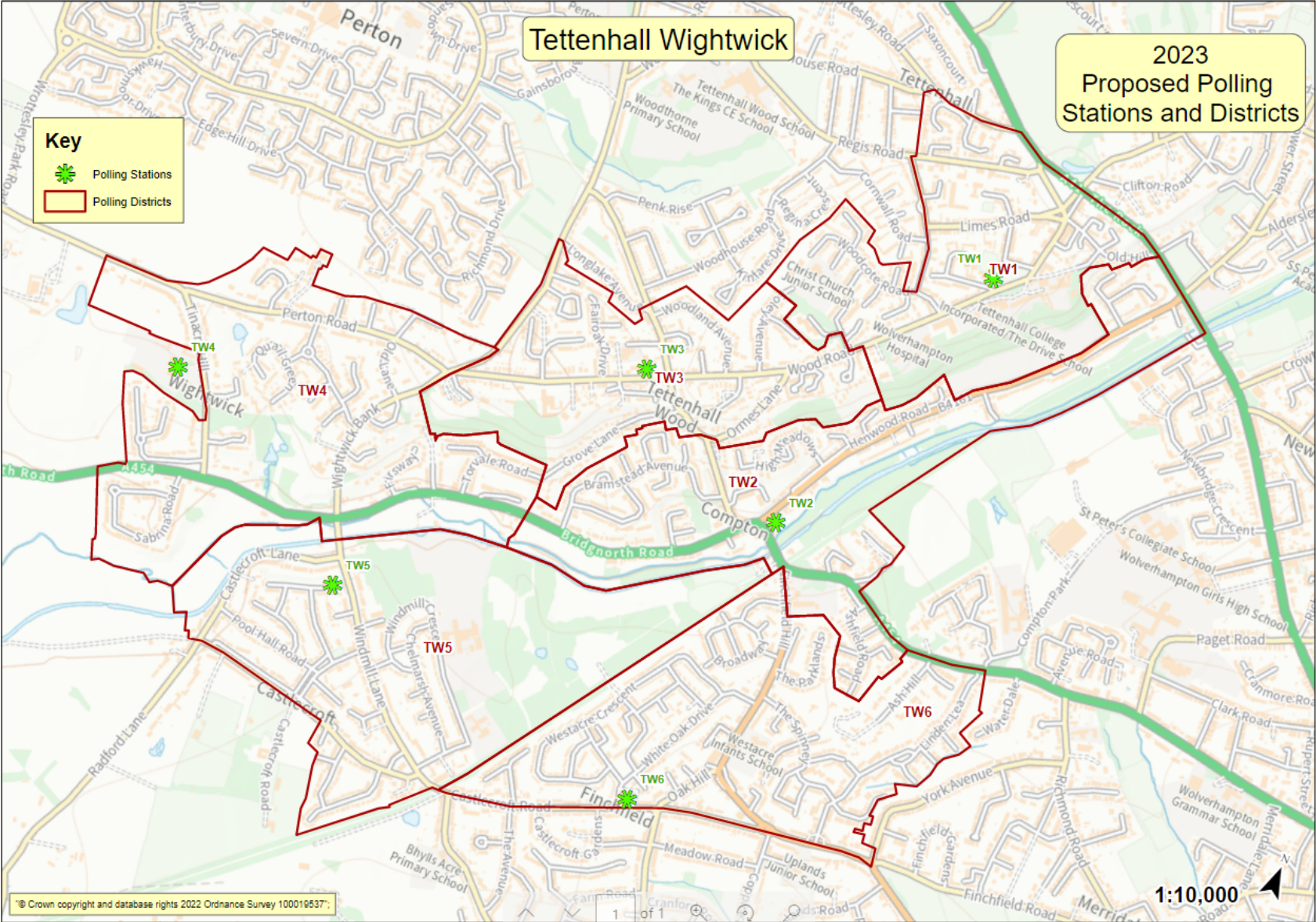
TR6	Wolverhampton South West	The Kings School, Regis Road, WV6 8XF	1,617	Yes	<p>There are no changes to this district and polling station. There are no suitable alternatives in the polling district. Tettenhall Wood School does have to close. However, the Kings School does not have to close as they can lock down that side of the school. Therefore, it is proposed that The Kings School becomes the permanent station for this polling district every year. The polling district is located in TR6 but is very close to the border and there are no other alternatives in the polling district.</p>
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# Tettenhall Wightwick

## 2023 Proposed Polling Stations and Districts

**Key**

-  Polling Stations
-  Polling Districts



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## Tettenhall Wightwick

Proposed polling district	Parliamentary constituency	Proposed polling place	Estimated electorate	Disabled access	Justification
TW1	Wolverhampton South West	Church Hall Newman Centre, Haywood Drive, WV6 8RF	1,183	Yes	There are no changes to this district and polling station.
TW2	Wolverhampton South West	Temporary polling station – Sainsburys Car Park, 24 Bridgnorth Road, WV6 8AA	1,701	No	<p>There are no changes to this district and polling station. There are no suitable alternative venues in this polling district. This arrangement has worked well over the last few years. An accessible ramp would need to be provided to make these stations accessible.</p> <p>Due to the large electorate and turnout and lack of suitable venue, this polling district is split in to two temporary stations. 338 electors turned out to vote in this polling station in the local election, compared to 979 for a general election. The other polling station in Ettingshall had a 334 turnout and managed with one unit. Therefore, for a standalone local election, it is proposed that just one unit is used and for a national election – two units to accommodate the greater turnout.</p> <p>This site is prone to flooding and is on the risk assessment to sort out blocked drains ahead of each election.</p>
TW3	Wolverhampton South West	Tettenhall Wood United Reformed Church, Mount Road, WV6 8HT	1,282	Yes	There are no changes to this district and polling station.

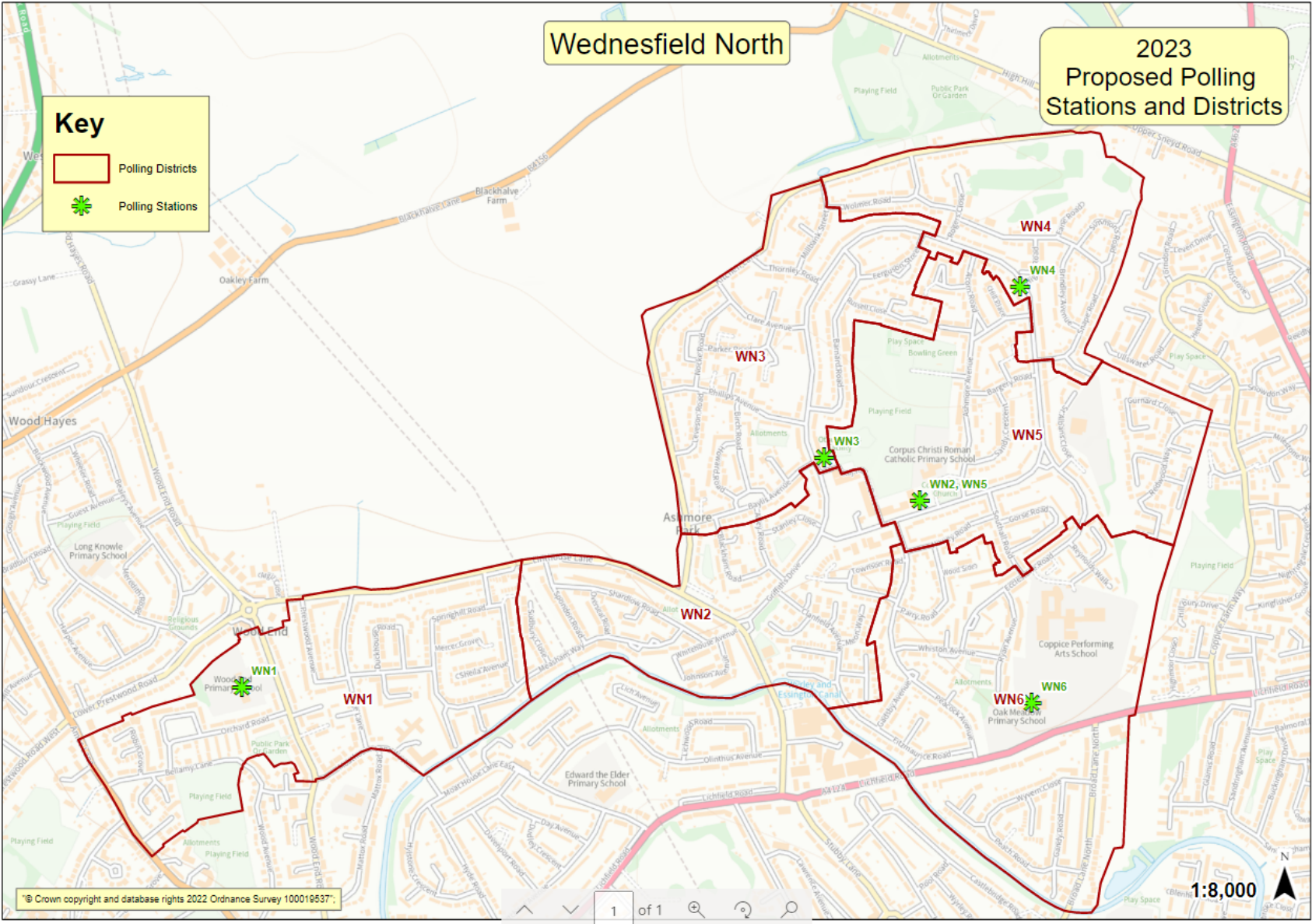
TW4	Wolverhampton South West	Endeavour Academy, Tinacre Hill, WV6 8DA	1,155	Yes	There are no changes to this district and polling station. There are no suitable alternatives to this venue. This school stays open. A security guard works on the gates controlling access to the polling station during school hours.
TW5	Wolverhampton South West	Church of Good Shepherd, Windmill Lane, WV3 8HJ	1,622	Yes	There are no changes to this district and polling station.
TW6	Wolverhampton South West	St Columbus Church Hall, Castlecroft Road, WV3 8BZ	2,434	Yes	There are no changes to this district and polling station.

# Wednesfield North

## 2023 Proposed Polling Stations and Districts

**Key**

- Polling Districts
- ✿ Polling Stations

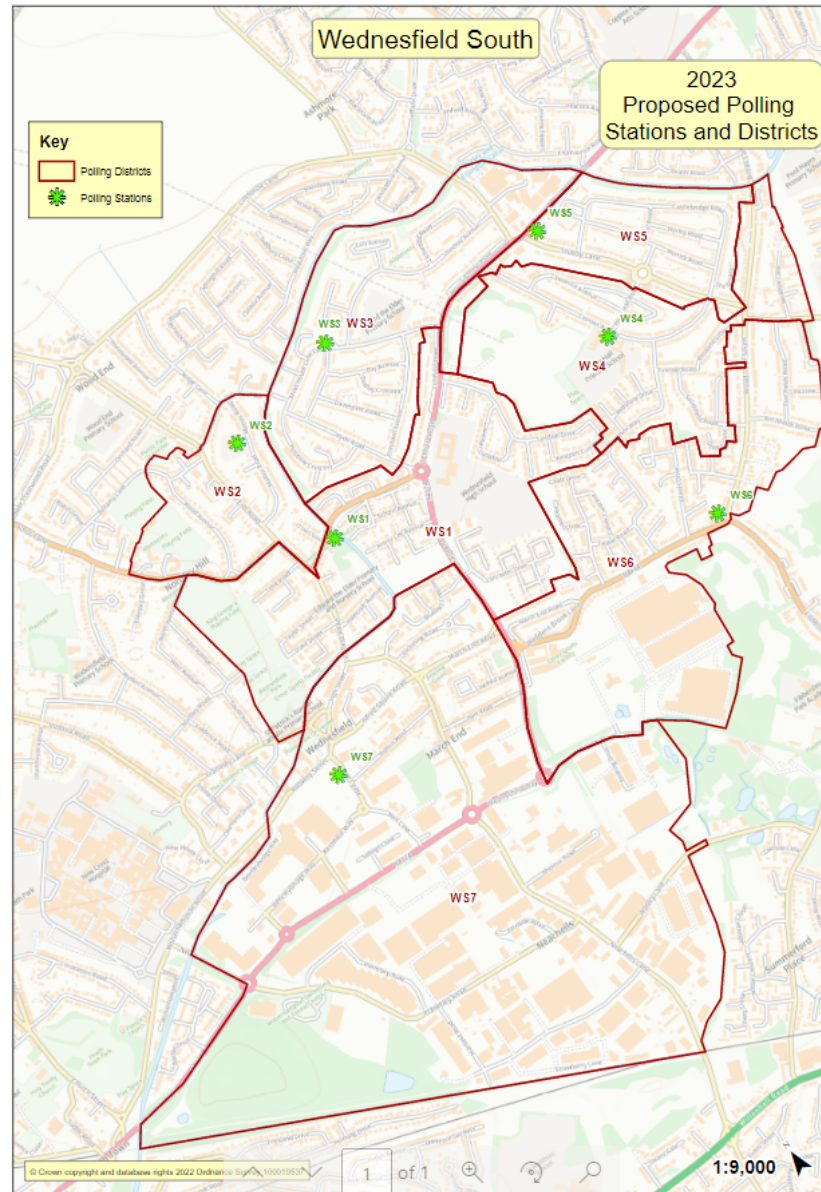




## Wednesfield North

Proposed polling district	Parliamentary constituency	Proposed polling place	Estimated electorate	Disabled access	Justification
WN1	Wolverhampton North East	Wood End Primary School, Wood End Rd, WV11 1YQ	1,707	Yes	<p>There are changes to this district due to taking in from Wednesfield South and giving away to Fallings Park. There are no changes to the polling station. The school does have to close and they do not currently plan for this to be an inset day.</p> <p>Other venues explored:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wednesfield Methodist Church - told it could not be used as it is currently up for sale. This may be a suitable community space in the future which we could use.</li> <li>• Temporary polling station on the Castle Inn pub car park.</li> </ul>
WN2	Wolverhampton North East	Ashmore Park Community Hub, 82 Griffiths Drive, WV11 2LH	1,378	Yes	<p>There are no changes to this district and polling station as it has worked well as a double in the past with WN5.</p> <p>Other venues explored:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• St Albans Church is in WN2 so this could make a suitable alternative if required.</li> </ul>
WN3	Wolverhampton North East	Ashmore Park Baptist Church, Griffiths Drive, WV11 2JW	1,684	Yes	<p>There are no changes to this district and polling station.</p>
WN4 (Previously WN5)	Wolverhampton North East	Temporary Station, Griffiths Drive, Top of	890	Yes	<p>The final proposal is to create a new polling district at the top of Wednesfield North, as there was previously a temporary polling station at the</p>

		Higgs Road, WV11 2PD			top of Higgs Road, and the location is easier for electors to travel, as it is on a local bus route that is used frequently by voters.
WN5 (Previously WN6)	Wolverhampton North East	Ashmore Park Community Hub, 82 Griffiths Drive, WV11 2LH	1,502	Yes	There are no changes to this district and polling station.
WN6 (Previously WN4 split)	Wolverhampton North East	Oak Meadow Primary School, Wolverhampton, WV11 2QQ	1,502	Yes	<p>There are no changes to this district and station. Oak Meadow Primary School does have to close and they do not currently plan for this to be an inset day.</p> <p>Other venues explored:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Double polling station at Ashmore Park if WNB use St Albans Church. The distance between Oak Meadow Primary School and Ashmore Park Community Hub is 0.5 miles, which is considered a reasonable distance for electors to travel.</li> </ul>





## Wednesfield South

Proposed polling district	Parliamentary constituency	Proposed polling place	Estimated electorate	Disabled access	Justification
WS1	Wolverhampton North East	Seventh Day Adventist Church, Lichfield Road, WV11 1TP	1,866	Yes	There are no changes to this district and polling station.
WS2	Wolverhampton North East	St Thomas Primary School, Mattox Road, WV11 3TG	764	Yes	<p>There are changes to this district as WS2 is giving away to Wednesfield North. There are no changes to the polling station. The school have identified that this is a remote learning day so there is minimal impact on children's education. No other suitable alternatives have been identified in the polling district.</p> <p>Other venues explored:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A double polling station with WS1 at the Seventh Day Adventist Church was proposed in 2021 as this is 0.3 miles away and would make a suitable double polling station. Feedback was received by ward councillors that this was not suitable as many elderly residents in this area do not own vehicles and it would be difficult to access this venue.</li> </ul>
WS3	Wolverhampton North East	Moathouse Community Centre, 52 Moathouse Lane	1,449	Yes	There are no changes to this polling district. The current polling station is Edward the Elder School which does have to close to students, but teachers are still on site. Moathouse Community

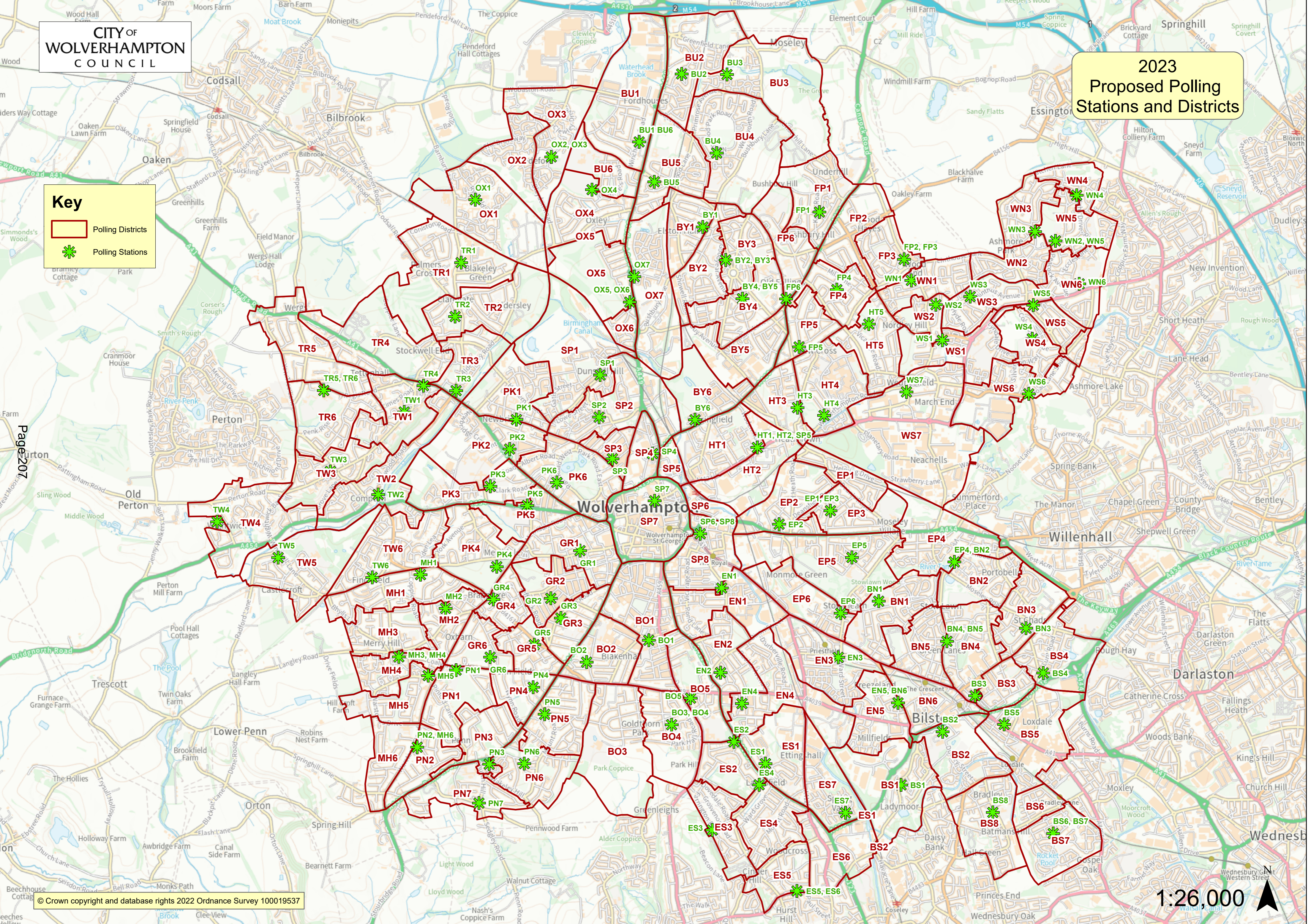
		East, Wednesfield, West Midlands, WV11 2BB.			Rooms has a large car park around the rear and they are fitting a disabled access ramp to enter via the rear of the building. The room and the facilities make a good polling station venue, and it is on the same road as the school.
WS4	Wolverhampton North East	Perry Hall Primary School, Colman Avenue, WV11 3RT	1,435	Yes	There are no changes to this district and polling station. They do have to close and they do use it as an inset day. Other options explored: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Merge WS4 and WS5 polling districts to make up an electorate of 2,500. The distance from Perry Hall Primary School to the Redeemed Christian Church of God is 0.3 miles which is considered a reasonable distance to travel.</li> </ul>
WS5	Wolverhampton North East	Redeemed Christian Church of God, Stubby Lane, off Lichfield Road, WV11 3NF	971	Yes	There are no changes to this district and polling station.
WS6	Wolverhampton North East	Wednesfield Christian Centre, Broad Lane South, WV11 3RY	1,561	Yes	There are no changes to this district and polling station.
WS7	Wolverhampton North East	Wednesfield Community Centre, 34 Well Lane, WV11 1XT	1,294	Yes	There are boundary changes to this district due to an area been given away to Heath Town. There are no changes to this polling station.



**Key**

-  Polling Districts
-  Polling Stations

Page 207



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## Equality Analysis

<b>Directorate:</b> Governance  <b>Service Area:</b> Electoral Services	<b>Lead Officer:</b> Laura Noonan, Electoral Services Manager  <b>Date completed:</b> January 2022, updated 16 June 2022
<b>Service / Function / Policy / Procedure to be assessed:</b> Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places	
<b>Is this:</b> New / Proposed <b>X</b> Existing/Review <b>X</b> Changing <b>✓</b>  (Please tick appropriate box)	<b>Review date:</b>  Ongoing

## Part A – Initial Equality Analysis to determine if a full Equality Analysis is required.

### What are the aims and objectives/purpose of this service, function, policy or procedure?

The Local Government Boundary Commission for England Order for Wolverhampton will create new ward boundaries to be effective from May 2023. The arrangements will introduce changes to 14 wards. The six wards that are staying the same are Blakenhall, Graiseley, Merry Hill, Penn, Tettenhall Regis and Tettenhall Wightwick. There are also ward name changes proposed for 3 wards. Bilston East will become Bilston South, Ettingshall will become Ettingshall North and Spring Vale will be Ettingshall South and Spring Vale.

A polling district and polling place review is required to reflect the new boundaries at the revision of the electoral register on 1 December 2022. The Polling District and Polling Place Review will subdivide the new ward areas, allocate a polling place, calculate the electorate for each polling venue and recommend the number of polling stations within the polling place. The Council has a statutory responsibility to review polling districts and polling places. The purpose of such a review is to ensure that all electors have reasonably practicable facilities for voting and that polling places are reasonably accessible to electors who are disabled. The review is an opportunity for electors, community groups and any other interested parties in Wolverhampton to express their views on the polling district boundaries and polling places through an online questionnaire, and where possible make alternative suggestions for consideration.

### Please indicate its relevance to any of the equality duties (below) by selecting Yes or No?

	Yes	No
Eliminating unlawful discrimination, victimisation and harassment		X
Advancing equality of opportunity	X	
Fostering good community relations		X

**If not relevant to any of the three equality duties and this is agreed by your Head of Service, the Equality Analysis is now complete - please send a copy to the Equality & Diversity Team. If any of the three equality duties are relevant, a Full Equality Analysis will need to be undertaken (PART B below).**

## PART B: Full Equality Analysis.

### Step 1 – Identifying outcomes and delivery mechanisms (in relation to what you are assessing)

<b>What outcomes are sought and for whom?</b>	To give electors, community groups and other interested parties in Wolverhampton an opportunity to express their views on the polling district boundaries and polling stations
<b>Are there any associated policies, functions, services or procedures?</b>	Electoral Commission Guidance on Reviews of polling districts, polling place and polling stations: <a href="#">Polling place reviews   Electoral Commission</a>
<b>If partners (including external partners) are involved in delivering the service, who are they?</b>	Hire of various venues as polling stations

### Step 2 – What does the information you have collected, or that you have available, tell you?

**What evidence/data already exists about the service and its users?** (in terms of its impact on the ‘equality strands’, i.e. race, disability, gender, gender re-assignment, age, religion or belief, sexual orientation, maternity/pregnancy, marriage/civil partnership and other socially excluded communities or groups) and **what does the data tell you?** e.g. are there any significant gaps?

**Age** – 22% of the population are aged 0-15, and 17% aged 65 and over. The city is younger than the English average but the 65+age group is expected to rise faster than younger cohorts.

24 schools are currently used as polling stations. Of these, 10 schools close which results in a loss of school days for young people of school age (4-18). 12 of them plan it as a teacher training/inset day and 2 of them are open for remote learning.

**Disability** - It is estimated that around 20.5% (51,258) of people in Wolverhampton are affected by a disability which limits their day-to-day activity – 10% of the population are affected by a disability which impacts them a lot.

**Religion** - According to the 2018 ONS Annual Population Survey by religion, Christianity is the most common religion in the city with 55 % (138,394) of residents. Followed by 9% (22,689) Sikh – Wolverhampton has the second highest proportion of Sikh residents in the Country. 4% (9292) are Hindu and 4% (9062) Muslim, and 20% (49,821) of the population hold no religion or belief.

There are currently 39 out of 103 buildings in use which belong to a particular faith group. For the majority of these, the voting takes place in a function room / church hall.

**Race** – The top three ethnicity groups in Wolverhampton are White, Asian/Asian British and Asian/ Indian. 65% of Wolverhampton are White British. 89% of the population speak English as a main language. The most commonly spoken main languages after English are Punjabi (11,055), Polish (2,458) and Kurdish (1,386).

**Has there been any consultation with, or input from, customers / service users or other stakeholders?** If so, with whom, how were they consulted and what did they say? If you haven't consulted yet and are intending to do so, please list which specific groups or communities you are going to consult with and when.

We are going to consult with all groups on Equalities stakeholder database. All electors will be informed of the review.

**Are there any complaints, compliments, satisfaction surveys or customer feedback that could help inform this assessment? If yes, what do these tell you? Feedback from Presiding Officer report on polling day will demonstrate the suitability of the station and whether there are any comments from electors.**

### Step 3 – Identifying the negative impact.

a. **Is there any negative impact on individuals or groups in the community?**

<p><b>Barriers:</b></p> <p>What are the potential or known barriers/impacts for the different 'equality strands' set out below? Consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Where</b> you provide your service, e.g. the facilities/premises;</li> <li>• <b>Who</b> provides it, e.g. are staff trained and representative of the local population/users?</li> <li>• <b>How</b> it is provided, e.g. do people come to you or do you go to them? Do any rules or requirements prevent certain people accessing the service?</li> <li>• <b>When</b> it is provided, e.g. opening hours?</li> <li>• <b>What</b> is provided, e.g. does the service meet everyone's needs? How do you know?</li> </ul> <p>* Some barriers are justified, e.g. for health or safety reasons, or might actually be designed to promote equality, e.g. single sex swimming/exercise sessions, or cannot be removed without excessive cost. If you believe any of the barriers identified to be justified then please indicate which they are and why.</p> <p><b>Solutions:</b></p> <p>What can be done to minimise or remove these barriers to make sure everyone has equal access to the service or to reduce adverse impact? Consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Other arrangements that can be made to ensure people's diverse needs are met;</li> <li>• How your actions might help to promote good relations between communities;</li> <li>• How you might prevent any unintentional future discrimination.</li> </ul>			
<b>Equality Themes</b>	<b>Positive Impacts</b>	<b>Negative Impacts identified</b>	<b>Solutions (ways in which you could mitigate the negative impact)</b>

<p><b>Age</b> (including children, young people and older people)</p>	<p>Schools used as polling stations could plan for those days in advance and use it as an inset day, which could be used to demonstrate importance of voting and democracy for young people. The proposed scheme eliminates the use of schools</p>	<p>If proposed venues become unavailable, especially at short notice, schools may need to be used in some circumstances which impacts on school aged children education as the school is likely to close.</p>	<p>Schools have been asked if they have to close, or whether they use polling day as an inset day to minimise impact on education. We will ask councillors and other community groups for alternatives venues to schools which could be explored. All representations will be considered by the Governance and Ethics Committee who will then put forward recommendations to the Council.</p>
<p><b>Disability</b> (including carers)</p>	<p>Ahead of every election, electors are made aware of the option of applying for a postal or proxy vote. In 2021, all electors without a postal vote were sent an application form to give them the choice ahead of the first election to be held during the pandemic.</p> <p>Local authorities have a duty to review the accessibility of all polling places to disabled voters and ensure that every polling place, and prospective polling place, for which it is responsible is accessible to disabled voters</p>	<p>Some stations such as temporary stations are not ideal venues however all venues are made wheelchair accessible with temporary ramps.</p>	<p>All proposed new polling places will be evaluated against the Electoral Commission checklist for polling places with a particular emphasis on the following requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Level access at entrance and within polling place (or space for temporary ramp)</li> <li>• Wide enough doorways and corridors</li> <li>• Sufficient space within the polling place to enable motorised wheelchair manoeuvrability.</li> </ul>

	<p>'so far as is reasonable and practicable'.</p> <p>Presiding Officers and companions of voters with disabilities can assist electors with marking the ballot paper.</p>		Continue to work with disability groups such as Beacon Centre for Blind and Zebra Access.
<b>Gender</b> (men and women)	No impact anticipated	No impact anticipated	No action required
<b>Race</b> (including Gypsies & Travelers and Asylum Seekers)	People with no fixed address can register by declaration of local connection.	Those whose first language is not English may find it more difficult to participate in the consultation and provide their views on the proposed polling districts and places.	The invitation to respond to the consultation can be translated in to the top 10 most spoken languages in the city.
<b>Religion or belief</b> (including people of no religion or belief)	Many faith buildings are used for voting.	The use of religious or consecrated buildings may discourage other faith groups from voting.	Due to the requirement to provide polling stations in a specified area (a polling district) and the requirement to make them accessible to all, it is often not possible to secure the use of a more generic facility. Where the main church is used as the polling station, this is clearly stated on the poll card. Electors are also made aware of the option of applying for a postal or proxy vote. The consultation will be shared with faith groups to secure their views.

<b>Gender Re-assignment</b> (those that are going or have gone through a transition: male to female or female to male)	No impact anticipated	No impact anticipated	No action required
<b>Pregnancy and Maternity</b>	The layout of polling stations is such that access for pushchairs is considered	No impact anticipated	No action required
<b>Sexual orientation</b> (including gay, lesbian, bisexual and heterosexual)	No impact anticipated	No impact anticipated	No action required
<b>Marriage and Civil Partnership</b>	No impact anticipated	No impact anticipated	No action required
<b>Human Rights</b>	No impact anticipated	No impact anticipated	No action required

#### Step 4 – Changes or mitigating actions proposed or adopted

**Having undertaken the assessment are there any changes necessary to the existing service, policy, function or procedure? What changes or mitigating actions are proposed?**

This is a statutory process so there are no changes to process, but this analysis will ensure that we engage with all of the relevant stakeholders to ensure equality of opportunity to taking part in the consultation.

#### Step 5 – Monitoring

**How are you going to monitor the existing service, function, policy or procedure?**



The Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013 amended the Representation of the People Act 1983 to require the Council to undertake full reviews of polling districts and polling places at least every five years within a specific timeframe. In addition, the Council reviews its polling scheme following an election to ensure ongoing suitability of location and accessibility of the premises. The responsibility to provide recommendations to Full Council on electoral arrangements in the city relating to the designation of polling districts and polling places lies with the Governance and Ethics Committee.

### Part C - Action Plan

Barrier/s or improvement/s identified	Action Required	Lead Officer	Timescale
Impact on schools	Reduce use of schools and inform schools of election dates years in advance so that they can plan inset days	Laura Noonan	Ongoing

### Equality Analysis approved by:

Head of Service: Laura Gittos – Head of Governance <i>L. Gittos</i>	Date: 9 February 2022
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**Please send an electronic copy of the Equality Analysis to the Equality & Diversity Team:**

## Summary of representations received in the polling district and polling place review consultation

A summary of the representations received in the polling district and polling place review has been provided below, organised in alphabetical ward order. Additional responses that were outside the scope of the consultation have been provided at the end.

### Bilston North

Polling District	Respondent type	Representation	Returning Officer response to representation
BN1	Ward Councillors: Councillor Phil Page, Councillor Linda Leach and Councillor Olivia Birch	Councillors were concerned about the vulnerable residents at the tenants meeting room and having this building open for public access. They also said that there is restricted access to parking because it is used by the residents, and it is not as central to the polling district.	This is a reasonable concern and given the safeguarding concerns, the Acting Returning Officer proposals will include the return to Stowlawn Primary School. A site visit was conducted to the college sports hall as an alternative, however the councillor's feedback said that this is an extremely busy site and it is also difficult for residents of BNA to access.
BN1	Voter	I accept that the LGBCE will have accurately redefined the ward boundaries based upon appropriate criteria and using the census data it had available. I further accept that this work was done without any political bias, simply to allow council wards (like the necessary changes to MP constituency boundaries) to	Feedback noted and echoed the points raised by Councillors regarding the lack of parking and it being more on the edge of the boundary. Therefore, this will be moved back to Villiers Primary School.

		<p>reflect where people live now, rather than where they lived historically. This site is not located on a main road, on the local (little) bus route, on a road people use to travels the area nor is it located near the centre of the district. Instead, it has been placed on the extreme edge of the district, well off the beaten track I do wonder where people are expected to park, if they have a car, or do you just intend to waste council tax payers money 'compensating' people when you highjack tenants' parking spaces. I also presume the location was chosen to discourage the elderly from voting, possibly as a petty bourgeois reaction to the Brexit vote, probably on the assumption that normally there are sufficient sheep to ensure that election results are a foregone conclusion, ergo why waste effort finding a central location e.g. the old Methodist Church. We had a youth club that would have</p>	
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		been convenient but you lot subsumed it into the school.	
BN2	Councillor Phil Page, Councillor Linda Leach and Councillor Olivia Birch (ward councillors for Bilston North)	BNB is taking in from Bilston East ward. Councillors said that this part of the ward needs to be a separate polling district. These voters currently vote at Bert Williams, but this is a busy junction, and it would be more convenient for them to vote at the Excel Church. This is out of the ward, but councillors agreed that this has a better fit for this community. The rest of BNB should vote back at Villiers Primary School as per the comments below.	The Acting Returning Officer proposed that BNB polling district will be split in two along the Wellington to create an additional polling district and polling station in the ward. It is proposed that they will vote at the Excel Church as this is closer for these electors and it makes a good polling station venue.
BN2	Voter	I live on Shale Street. previously the street came under Bilston East and Ettingshall wards. All Saints Primary School was used, but I think the Excel Church would be more. It has a large car park, served by the 23 bus service.	This is in line with the feedback provided by Ward Councillors and it is proposed that this polling district will be split and the polling station will be the Excel Church.
BN4	Councillor Phil Page, Councillor Linda Leach and Councillor Olivia Birch (ward councillors for Bilston North)	Villiers Primary School is a better polling station for BNB and BND residents. The proposed polling station of Bilston Methodist Church	The Acting Returning Officer proposed that the polling station is at Villiers Primary School given the concerns

		entrance is too close to the traffic lights and would cause congestion. The car park is too small. This would double the distance for electors compared to Villiers. Electors are used to voting at Villiers and they do not want to create too much change as the ward boundary changes are enough change.	raised by all three ward councillors.
BN4	Bilston Methodist Church	Proposals make sense – large car park, disabled toilets, disabled ramp access	The Acting Returning Officer visited the venue and agrees that it is a suitable polling station, however it will not be used for May 2023 given the concerns raised above.
BN3 and BN5	Councillor Phil Page, Councillor Linda Leach and Councillor Olivia Birch (ward councillors for Bilston North)	Happy with these proposals	Feedback noted. No further action required.
All	Wolverhampton Liberal Democrats	Bilston North has 5 polling districts of a similar physical size, with electorates of 2,090, 2,454, 1,743, 1,378 and 2,061: an ideal standard that should be replicated elsewhere!	Feedback noted. No further action required.

## Bilston South

Polling District	Respondent type	Representation	Returning Officer response to representation
BS1	Councillor Stephen Simkins	The horning drive polling station was closer for these electors, and it will also be the polling station to serve the new Bilston urban village.	The Acting Returning Officer accepts this feedback and proposes to split this district and to have the temporary polling station at horning drive as this is closer for electors in this area.
All	Wolverhampton Liberal Democrats	Bilston South is one of the wards that has changed, hence the change of name from Bilston East. It has a mixture of size and electorate in its 7 polling districts, and these could be reduced to the 'standard' 5 by combining BSB and BSD to give a total of 2,242, keeping the BS4 polling station for both; and combining BSE with BSF rather than the adjacent BSG which already has 2,007 electors. Although that combination would total 2,777, the northern boundary of BSF could be moved down to align with the northern boundary of BSE, with the electors north of	The Acting Returning Officer notes the feedback and appreciates the effort to equalise the polling district numbers from an administrative perspective, however unlike the ward boundary review this is not the aim with the polling district review. These proposals would reduce the number of polling stations and increase the distance that some electors would have to travel. It is inconvenient for electors in BSB to have to cross the A463 main road to get to the BS4 polling station. Abiding by the Electoral Commission guidance, we cannot plan for a polling station to have more

		King Street joining BSA which currently has only 1,446.	than 2,500 electors. The proposal to move the BSF line down to gain a more even electorate would not benefit the electors as their polling station would be further away and more awkward to get to.
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### Blakenhall

Polling District	Respondent type	Representation	Returning Officer response to representation
BO1, BO2, BO5	Councillor Jas Dehar, Councillor Paul Birch (Ward Councillors)	These polling stations are working fine.	Feedback noted, no further action required.
BO1	Wolverhampton Liberal Democrats	Blakenhall meets the standard 5, but has the polling districts with the highest and lowest electors next to each other with 2,326 and 1,352, compared to the other 3 with 1,606, 1,865 and 1,628. If ~400 electors were moved from the south of BOA to BOB, this would even things up and reduce the pressure on the BO1 polling station.	Both electorates are still within an acceptable scope. The Royal Air Force Association in BOA is a small room so the Acting Returning Officer would not recommend that more electors are moved here. The existing arrangements for these polling districts have worked well and are convenient for electors.
BO5	Cllr Tersaim Singh	It is difficult to get to St Theresa's too as it's a cul de sac, very narrow road	Feedback noted and will change to St Johns Methodist Church.



BO3	Councillor Jas Dehar	This is a south Asian community with a lot of elderly residents who could not get to St Johns Methodist Church, and some do not know where it is. They always go to Goldthorn Park.	The Acting Returning Officer accepts this feedback and proposes that the polling station is at Goldthorn Park Primary School.
BO3	Councillor Paul Birch	Would like to retain Goldthorn Park School as Double for BOC/BOD	As above
BO4	Councillor Jas Dehar	This is where they have always voted. It caused confusion changing it last year.	The Acting Returning Officer accepts this feedback and proposes that the polling station is at Goldthorn Park Primary School.
BO4	Voter	it looks like it will make little difference to my wife and myself just a little bit more walking.	Feedback noted, no further action required. The final proposal will revert back to the ordinary polling station.
BO4	Councillor Paul Birch	Would like to retain Goldthorn Park School as Double for BOC/BOD	As above
BO5	Voter	It is more convenient from a parking and traffic point of view than St Teresa's School	Feedback noted, no further action required.
BO5	Voter	Within the local area of Blakenhall, there are plenty of community locations that could be used instead of St Teresa's primary school.	Feedback noted, no further action required.

		I think it is a very positive step forward to remove the need for schools to close to pupils and am grateful for the proposed changes – removes the negative impact on education.	
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### Bushbury North

Polling District	Respondent type	Representation	Returning Officer response to representation
BU3	Councillor Andrew McNeil (ward councillor)	Northycote farm is too far away from the residential area. There aren't any other suitable buildings in the area. Need to look at temporary stations. Suggest Mayfield surgery and medical practice or the green land on northycote lane/abbeyfield road	The Acting Returning Officer agrees that this polling station is located further away from the residential area than is the norm. This has been the arrangement for many years and no negative feedback has been received from electors. Mayfield surgery and medical centre said they are not able to assist as they do not have a separate room and the car park is not big enough for a temporary. The concern is that the green land would not be practical from a health and safety perspective as there is nowhere safe for electors to park and queue. It would also be impractical to place a site

			on the grass especially in wet conditions. However a site visit was arranged to assess this further with the supplier and health and safety and a suitable area was found on the park next to Mayfield Medical Practice.
BU3	Voter	This site is totally unsuitable . It is too far from the housing estates . People who have mobility issues or don't have a car have a real problem if they want to vote in person. Given the physical area that the ward covers two polling stations are needed. Bus services are inadequate to get to Northcote Farm. The polling station needs to be far more central, say by the doctor's surgery in Cromwell Road, A smaller ward area or restricted to estates south of Northcote Lane would be more appropriate . There used to be a mobile polling station by the former King Charles pub. There is space on the open land central to where people live or even on the Surgery carpark.	As above.

BU4	Councillor Andrew McNeil (ward councillor)	Access and site isn't accessible at St Mary's Church. Would like to go back to the primary school	The Acting Returning Officer accepts this feedback as one of the concerns noted at the site visit was that it could be difficult to find especially at night. Northwood Primary school was an alternative to Collingwood library. The library service have confirmed that this will be opened again this year so can be used as a polling station again.
BU4	Presiding Officer	Library was more suitable - comments by several voters. Several people stated they had not received their postal votes. Station was too far and not suitable for people who are not able bodied. One member unable to vote due to lack of close parking. Library was closer and more suitable, this station is more uphill and electors may have health issues.	The Acting Returning Officer accepts this feedback and it echoes the feedback above, so it is proposed the polling station goes back to the library.
All	Wolverhampton Liberal Democrats	Bushbury North has 6 polling districts, one of which is under 1,000. If this is combined with BUE it would total 2,652 just over the 2,500 maximum, so a solution would be to transfer the School Lane area to BUD	This would make the polling station over the Stafford Road a significant logistical boundary – it is incredibly busy and difficult to cross so these are best kept as two separate districts.

		which would fit in well, and enable both electorates to be under 2,500. BU5 would then serve the existing BUF, and not BU1 with BU6.	
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### Bushbury South and Low Hill

Polling District	Respondent type	Representation	Returning Officer response to representation
All	Councillor Ian Brookfield, Councillor Paula Brookfield, Councillor Paul Sweet (ward councillors)	Happy with the arrangements as there are no changes to the existing arrangements	Feedback noted, no further action required.
All	Wolverhampton Liberal Democrats	Bushbury South and Low Hill has 6 polling districts, and it would be difficult to reduce these to 5 conveniently although electors in BYE have some distance to go to vote in BYD.	Feedback noted, no further action required.

### East Park

Polling District	Respondent type	Representation	Returning Officer response to representation
EP1, EP2, EP3, EP4, EP5	Councillor Anwen Muston (ward councillor)	Happy with these polling stations. Happy if security guard is on gate of EPB.	Feedback noted, no further action required. A security guard will be placed on EPD to operate the gate for access to the station.

EP6	Councillor Anwen Muston (ward councillor)	The polling station needs to be in the ward, not happy to go over to Ettingshall. The other alternatives proposed are too far. It would be good if the temporary station could be put on the car park if the building cannot be used.	The Acting Returning Officer accepts this feedback and has confirmed that it is possible to use stowheath training centre for next year.
All	Wolverhampton Liberal Democrats	East Park has 6 polling districts, one of which has only 737 electors. This splits Stow Heath from EPE and should be combined with it to reduce the number to 5 polling districts. This would be just over the 2,500 with 2,570, but redrawing the boundary in the east would transfer a small number of electors to EPB, which only has 1,436 currently, and bring the combined EPE and EPF below 2,500.	This works from a numbers perspective however this is incredibly inconvenient for the electors in EPF who would have to travel much further to get to their polling station. Therefore it is proposed that a temporary polling station is placed in the more residential area of EPF in Stow Heath area.
EP4	Voter	Disagree cost cutting exercise yet again. east park library as all access you need car park walking distance to vote. portobello voting too far to walk if gets passed not bother voting	Feedback noted. Portobello community hub is located on the edge of EPD but is still within a mile of the furthest elector which is considered reasonable. There may be some houses that are slightly closer to EPE - east park library. However, there is not

			much in the difference and these arrangements have worked well.
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### Ettingshall North

Polling District	Respondent type	Representation	Returning Officer response to representation
EN1, EN3, EN4, EN5	Councillor Zee Russell	Happy with these proposals.	Feedback noted, no further actions required.
EN2	Councillor Zee Russell	Happy with this proposal, however, there is a risk of church closing in the near future.	This polling station will remain in the proposal, however, will be reviewed in future if the church closes.
All Districts	Liberal Democrats	Ettingshall North is another standard with 5 polling districts and doesn't need change.	Feedback noted, no further actions required.

### Ettingshall South and Spring Vale

Polling District	Respondent type	Representation	Returning Officer response to representation
All Districts	Councillor McGarrity	Happy with these proposals.	Feedback noted, no further actions required.
ES1	Liberal Democrats	Unacceptable that the Overfield Drive estate no longer has a temporary polling station in the local car park and it would certainly discourage electors there from	The Acting Returning Officer accepts this feedback and will propose to split this polling district in to two along the spring road and have a

		voting, as it is a long way round to get to the one at ES1. Alternatively, give them all postal votes!	temporary polling station at Overfield drive.
ES1, ES2	Liberal Democrats	ESA and ESB are next to each other with the highest (2,391) and lowest (1,222) and it would seem sensible to add the northern part of ESA to ESB and use the polling station ES1 for both.	Although next to each other, there are separated by the Birmingham New Road which is a natural boundary between the two polling districts, and it would make it more difficult for some electors to move from Spring Vale Library to Hilton Hall.
ES5, ES6	Voter	Seems fine & well thought out. Very good access & Parking. Good site saves using a school helps education, very content.	Feedback noted, no further actions required.
ES6	Liberal Democrats	ESF is split either side of the A4123 so should not be a problem.	Feedback noted, no further actions required.

### Fallings Park

<b>Polling District</b>	<b>Respondent type</b>	<b>Representation</b>	<b>Returning Officer response to representation</b>
FP2	Voter	The polling station in the Church on Blackhalve Lane had easy access, and on the flat for disabled voters. It was central to the ward, easy parking and very easy to find.	This is referring to St Gregory the Great Church. The church is closing and they are not able to host a polling station or temporary on this site so it



		<p>The loss of the polling station to Fallings Park ward which had been sited on Blackhalve Lane is wrong. This polling station should be re-instated.</p> <p>I do not know if the boundary changes have altered the Fallings Park ward, but the shape of the ward seems a little odd, but I do not know the criteria for assessing the polling district.</p>	will need to stay at Long Knowle Community Hub.
FP1, FP3 and FP4	Councillor Steve Evans	Happy with the proposals.	Feedback noted, no further action.
FP2	Councillor Steve Evans	Ok with current proposal as a second choice. Has suggested a temporary on St Gregory's Church car park (as more central for residents) and suggests putting sign on St Gregory's to say where polling station has moved to.	The church is closing and they are not able to host a polling station or temporary on this site so it will need to stay at Long Knowle Community Hub.
FP6	Councillor Steve Evans	Happy with the proposal, however, if venue cannot be used in future, recommends the fire station opposite. Has community room and good parking behind.	Feedback noted, and the polling station will be reviewed in future if the venue closes.
FP4, FP5, FP6	Liberal Democrats	Would be good to combine the two with the lowest electorates FPE (1,333) and FPF (1,234);	The Acting Returning Officer acknowledges this from an administrative point of view

		but a part of FPD along the A460 is in the way, so it would mean redrawing the boundary to make just 2 new polling districts out of 3. The A460 area would go to the new FPE which would use the FP6 polling station instead of the FP5. The SE of the existing FPE (Sambrook Road, part of Kingsway, Wimborne and Prestwood Road West) would transfer to the revised FPD to bring the electorate of the new FPE below 2,500.	but logistically this makes it much further for some electors to travel so will not be taking this forward.
FP5	Voter	I consider there to be ample parking in the vicinity; there is an access ramp; location is 'safe'.	Feedback noted, no further actions required.

### Graiseley

<b>Polling District</b>	<b>Respondent type</b>	<b>Representation</b>	<b>Returning Officer response to representation</b>
All Districts	Liberal Democrats	Graiseley has 6 polling districts, with 3 of them between 1,047 and 1,129. Again, these 3 adjacent wards could be combined into 2. Any 2 of them would be under 2,500 but leave one low one behind. If all were added	The Acting Returning Officer notes the feedback and appreciates the effort to equalise the polling district numbers from an administrative perspective, however unlike the ward boundary review this is not the

		together and divided by 2, that would provide 2 new polling districts with an average of 1,652, similar to the other 3 Graiseley ones. So although Graiseley ward hasn't been revised, it now has the lowest electorate in the whole of the city with 8,571 and certainly doesn't deserve 6 polling districts!	aim with the polling district review. These proposals would reduce the number of polling stations and increase the distance that some electors would have to travel.
All Districts	Voter	All polling stations are suitable.	Feedback noted, however, as a result of Councillor feedback, there are currently investigations into altering the polling station for GRB.
GR1, GR3, GR4, GR5, GR6	Councillor John Reynolds, Councillor Asha Mattu	Happy with these proposals.	Feedback noted, no action required.
GR2	Councillor John Reynolds	Not happy with Association of Ukrainians. Suggests Bingley Strengthening Families Hub or St Chad's Church. The fire damage at Bingley SFH has been repaired, and the building to the right of St Chad's Church is council owned.	The Acting Returning Officer has contacted St Chad's Church on numerous occasions. It is recommended that this moves back to Strengthening Families Hub.
GR5	Beckminster Methodist Church	Happy with the proposals.	Feedback noted, no further action.
GR6	Voter	I think my polling station should stay where it is, there's no issue for people to get to	Feedback noted, no further action.

		and access the polling station. I believe that if the polling station was to be moved it would cause issues for residents to get to.	
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### Heath Town

<b>Polling District</b>	<b>Respondent type</b>	<b>Representation</b>	<b>Returning Officer response to representation</b>
All Districts	Liberal Democrats	Heath Town has 5 polling districts, all similarly sized, and matches the ward standard.	Feedback noted, no further action.
HT1	Councillor Milkinder Jaspal	Happy with revised proposal to use Harvest Temple Church as polling station for HTA and stand down Woden Primary School as it is in the same polling district and makes a good double polling station.	The Acting Returning Officer accepts the feedback and will move the polling station to become a double station at Harvest Temple Church.

### Merry Hill

<b>Polling District</b>	<b>Respondent type</b>	<b>Representation</b>	<b>Returning Officer response to representation</b>
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MH1	Councillor Dalton, Councillor Hyatt and Councillor Haynes (ward councillors)	Happy with the polling station.	Feedback noted. No further action required.
All	Liberal Democrats	Merry Hill has 6 polling districts, the lowest down in the south being 1,160. Combining it with MHE would seem logical, but that takes it just over the 2,500. So the houses north of Highgate Avenue would need to be transferred to MHD, giving it an almost horizontal southern boundary. Although it is intended to avoid using schools as polling stations where possible, both MHE and MHF had polling stations outside their area, and I am sure it could be possible to use the Springdale Infant or Junior School as a replacement for these two.	Feedback noted. Given the strong arguments presented by ward councillors on communities of identity and polling station locations these polling districts will be proposed to be redrawn which will still avoid the need to use the school.
MH1	Voter	Fine, no issues. Have used for years and never had a problem, it is in walking distance	Feedback noted. No further action required.
MH1		The boundaries are suitable. The polling station is ideally situated within the ward with safe, spacious	Feedback noted. St Columbas Church has been visited and is suitable however will not be

		accommodation for your staff with adequate parking and disability access for all.	used in May 2023 elections following feedback received.
MH2	Councillor Dalton, Councillor Hyatt and Councillor Haynes	Happy with the polling station.	Feedback noted. No further action required.
MH3	Councillor Dalton, Councillor Hyatt and Councillor Haynes	Happy with the polling station. St Joseph's church is great for this area.	Feedback noted. No further action required.
MH3/MH4	Voter	suitable, no issues.	Ample parking at church and nearby.
MH4	Councillor Dalton and Councillor Haynes	Nursing home needs to stay at MH3. Could be split down Leasowes drive to take in Pinfold Grove. Redraw the boundary line along Leasowes drive and up to new street because people living in that area – pinfold grove live right next to Warstones but do not go to that polling station.	The Acting Returning Officer accepts this feedback and proposed that MHD to give away Pinfold Grove to MHE to make it easier for electors to travel to vote following the concerns raised.
MH5	Councillor Dalton	Proposed to follow Warstones drive and down the road opposite Stourton drive to make make it easier for electors from MHE and MHF. walk ways are available through east croft road to make it easier for electors to	The Acting Returning Officer accepts this feedback and proposed that the boundary lines for MHE are moved to follow Warstones road and Stourton Drive to make it easier for electors to vote from MHE and MHF districts. Also,

		walk through to Springdale Methodist. Springdale have put restriction in the road and there are problems parking.	MHE will take in Pinfold Grove from MHD.
MH5	Councillor Hyatt	This is a low voting area. IT would be better if people went to Springdale infant school as people know where the school is and not where the library is. However on reflection we are trying to do more things at the library so it might be ok.	The Acting Returning Officer visited the venue and agrees that it is a suitable polling station, however it will not be used for May 2023 given the concerns raised.
MH5	Voter	Doesn't seem to have changed and Warstones Library is fine. Plenty of parking and quite local.	Feedback noted. Boundary lines changes to be made following the above concerns raised.
MH6	Councillor Dalton and Councillor Hyatt	Happy with this polling station. The church has great parking.	Feedback noted. No further action required.

### Oxley

<b>Polling District</b>	<b>Respondent type</b>	<b>Representation</b>	<b>Returning Officer response to representation</b>
OX1	Councillor Collinge and Councillor Roberts	Happy with this polling station.	Feedback noted. No further action required.
All Districts	Liberal Democrats	Oxley has seen a fair bit of change, and has 6 polling districts, one split 1,070/525 to	Legally the polling districts have to align to parliamentary constituencies so it is not

		accommodate part of what was St Peter's ward. This does seem unnecessary, although new constituency boundaries will not concur in some minor areas with the new wards, but it will be 8 years before another constituency review (instead of 5) whereas the wards are likely to remain the same. One OXE with 1,595 would get people used to the new Oxley.	possible to merge the areas as suggested.
OX2	Councillor Collinge and Councillor Roberts	Happy with this polling station.	Feedback noted. No further action required.
OX3	Councillor Collinge and Councillor Roberts	Happy with this polling station.	Feedback noted. No further action required.
OX4	Councillor Collinge and Councillor Roberts	Happy with this polling station.	Feedback noted. No further action required.
OX5	Councillor Collinge	OXE/1 - to move some to OXD. Area north of lodge road to go back to Rakegate. As its lost some of St Annes area.	The Acting Returning Officer accepts this point and will redraw OXE/1 to move the areas north of lodge road to OX4 so that these voters vote at Rakegate school.
OX7	Councillor Roberts	OXF - seems quite far for people to travel . Too difficult to come across the Stafford road. Would have to be Bushbury lane academy really. They have enough to	The Acting Returning Officer is currently investigating the use of the Gatehouse car park for a temporary station. If this is not suitable then the recommendation would be to



		get their head around different ward and three members. Maybe we look at it in the future.	used Bushbury Lane Academy based on this.
OX7	Councillor Collinge	Bushbury Lane academy doesn't have much connection for the Akron estate and the southside is currently being developed. Due to building work near the academy not ideal for walking path. Potential for Temporary polling station either on the the communal area near Aldi or the gatehouse car park. Issue with little oaks nursery potentially....but it's quite a dark. Not ideal for the residents south of OXF to go vote at a temporary station however this is still a better option than the Pavillion.	The Acting Returning Officer agrees that the Gatehouse car park may be suitable for a temporary station and is currently investigating into this temporary station.
OX7	Liberal Democrats	It appears that the residents of the 'Goodyear estate' will be made to travel to a polling station outside their district. Polling numbers were low last time, and the use of Ripon Road School was unsuitable, so it is good that that has been deleted from the list.	The Acting Returning Officer agrees that the Gatehouse car park may be suitable for a temporary station and is currently investigating into this temporary station.

		<p>However, the use of the Church of the Epiphany is also unsuitable, as it is unknown to most residents on the estate, and too far from the houses concerned. I would suggest, though I am aware you don't like them, a portakabin on the estate, preferably on the Car Park of the Gatehouse pub. The Church of the Epiphany is awful for access, even when group activities take place in the hall, owing to the narrow entrance and the one-way system in Lymer Road/Church Road. The boundary changes are sensible especially bringing in Mercury Drive estate into Oxley.</p>	
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### Park

<b>Polling District</b>	<b>Respondent type</b>	<b>Representation</b>	<b>Returning Officer response to representation</b>
PK1	Councillor Collingswood and Councillor Darke	Happy with using Cranmer Methodist church is it prevents a school closing it is a positive. Potential to put signs on the building to inform electors the building has	Feedback noted. No further action required.

		changed to tell them where the new polling station is.	
All Districts	Liberal Democrats	<p>Park has 6 polling districts, and a better arrangement would provide benefits while at the same time reducing the number to 5. PKA, PKB and PKF would stay the same, but PKF would become the new PKE. The zigzagging boundary between PKC and PKE would be removed, and this area would become the new PKC. A new boundary line would be created below Clark Road on the map, across and along the A454 west a short distance, than across to the corner of the boundary between the existing PKE and PKD below it on the map. PKD will now combine with the other half of PKC to create a new larger PKD. The sum of the existing PKC, PKD and PKE is 3,590, so the average for 2 polling districts will be 1,795, similar to the other 3 polling districts, but groups them in a much better way. Electoral services will have the electorates for the</p>	<p>The Acting Returning Officer considered this proposal as it is a good suggestion to reduce use of school. However it then creates a large electorate at the church and there is limited parking and it is a very busy road. Therefore this proposal will not be taken further forward at this stage.</p>

		split of PKC to determine the new totals.	
PK2	Councillor Collingswood and Councillor Darke	Happy with this polling station.	Feedback noted. No further action required.
PK2	Voter	Seems to be a fair reflection of the area and logical boundaries. Very convenient for our house to walk to and although some people do choose to drive there it has not caused any problems as there is a car park and some street parking. Mostly people seem to walk there so the few vehicles are ok to put up with.	Feedback noted. No further action required.
PK3	Councillor Collingswood and Councillor Darke	Happy with this polling station.	Feedback noted. No further action required.
PK4	Councillor Collingswood and Councillor Darke	Happy with this polling station.	Feedback noted. No further action required.
PK5	Councillor Collingswood and Councillor Darke	Happy with this polling station.	Feedback noted. No further action required.
PK6	Councillor Collingswood and Councillor Darke	Happy with this polling station.	Feedback noted. No further action required.

### Penn

Polling District	Respondent type	Representation	Returning Officer response to representation
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PN1	Councillor Hibbett	Happy that it was moved from the library and the church is now in penn ward. Church has all the facilities needed and better than the library.	Feedback noted. No further action required.
All Districts	Liberal Democrats	Penn has 7 polling districts, 2 of which are below 1,000. In this case there is a fairly simple solution to reduce them to 5, without exceeding the nominal 2,500 maximum. PNB joins with PNG to give a total of 2,351, and PNC and PND combine with a total of 2,331. The bit of PNC which projects between PNB and PNG can be added to the new PNB, and the other polling districts PNE and PNF can be re-named PND and PNE appropriately.	<p>The Acting Returning Officer notes the feedback and appreciates the effort to equalise the polling district numbers from an administrative perspective, however unlike the ward boundary review this is not the aim with the polling district review. These proposals would reduce the number of polling stations and increase the distance that some electors would have to travel. It is inconvenient for electors in PNB to cross the main Penn Road to vote at PNG polling station and vice versa. The bit of PNC has households with fronts of penn road so it is easier for them to get to the station in the current polling district, to so this will not be taken forward.</p> <p>There is currently not a polling station in PNC so if PNC and</p>

			PND were merged the polling station would be woodfield social club which is too far for some electors in PNC to get to over a mile away. Therefore it is felt that PNC is best served by penn bowling club and PND to remain at woodfield sports and social club so it is proposed these will remain as two separate
PN2	Councillor Hibbett	Happy with that polling station and has always been there.	Feedback noted. No further action required.
PN3	Councillor Hibbett	The stations are okay it is not an ideal place. Has good parking space but is right in the middle of the road so can't walk there. Dangerous to get to the church and could even walk there.  Proposed to use Penn united reformed church for PNC and Penn bowling Club for PNF due to high electorates.	The Acting Returning Officer accepts this feedback and proposed that PNC will continue to vote at Penn United reformed church.
PN4	Councillor Hibbett	Happy with the polling station. Facilities are good for the polling station.	Feedback noted. No further action required.
PN5	Councillor Hibbett	Happy with the polling station, Polling station works well, high electorate but that is due to	Feedback noted. No further action required.

		high amount of houses in each street.	
PN6	Councillor Hibbett	PNF to vote at Penn Bowling Club due to high electorate instead of a double station with PNC at Penn united reformed church.	The Acting Returning Officer accepts this feedback and proposed that PNC will continue to vote at Penn United reformed church.
PN7	Councillor Hibbett	Happy with the polling station.	Feedback noted. No further action required.
PN7	Voter	No change to either the boundary or my polling station both of which I am happy with and Excellent provision of parking, location and facilities.	Feedback noted. No further action required.

### St Peters

<b>Polling District</b>	<b>Respondent type</b>	<b>Representation</b>	<b>Returning Officer response to representation</b>
SP3	Councillor Qaiser Azeem (ward councillor) in consultation with fellow ward councillors Councillor Lynne Moran and Councillor Obaida Ahmed.	This area needs to go back to how it was before as it is too far for elector to get to university chaplaincy due to city centre navigation and lack of parking	The Acting Returning Officer accepts this feedback and proposes to split this district in to two and to use the Newhampton Arts Centre aswell.
SP5	Councillor Qaiser Azeem, Councillor Lynne Moran	On the basis that the boundary change should not cause them to walk further to their polling station.	The affected 28 electors will vote at the NTCG Harvest Temple Church.

SP1, SP4, SP6, SP7	Councillor Qaiser Azeem	Fine with these proposals	Feedback noted. No further action required.
All	Wolverhampton Liberal Democrats	<p>St Peter's has 5 polling districts, although the one representing the City centre only has 710 electors. Although it could be combined with SPE and still be within range (2,453) it could be the exception to prove the rule, with the likelihood of new apartments being built in the centre over the next decade. There seems no point in splitting SPC and SPE so as to accommodate in one case, 28 electors from Heath Town, and in the other case, 272 from East Park. It won't affect local elections and would have a minimal effect on general elections where there are slight discrepancies between the two boundaries! However, electors from the All Saints area will now have to cross the busy Bilston Road to get to their new polling station, (although there is an underpass) rather than sharing their existing polling station with Ettingshall North</p>	<p>Legally the polling districts have to align to parliamentary constituencies which is why there are small electorates in some of the polling districts. The Acting Returning Officer accepts the point it being difficult for electors from the All Saints area. This polling station is close for electors to get to so on balance it is felt that this is best kept in the St Peters ward to avoid further confusion for electors.</p>



		at the ASAN centre. This might confuse people voting.	
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### Tettenhall Regis

Polling District	Respondent type	Representation	Returning Officer response to representation
TR1	Voter	It hasn't changed. It's absolutely fine. Convenient for many. Near the shops. Level ground. Parking available.	Feedback noted. No further action required.
ALL	Liberal Democrats	Tettenhall Regis has 6 polling districts with two adjacent ones, TRC with 1,146 and TRD with 1,017. It would seem sensible to combine these 2 to give a new total of 2,163 and keep just the one polling station as TR3 or TR4. TRE and TRF which share a polling station, would be re-named TRD and TRE. (TRA and TRB are both over 2,000 electors).	This proposal was investigated further. Insight from ward councillors revealed that a lot of residents in this area are elderly and would not be ideal for them to move further to their polling station. No further action will be taken.
TR2	Voter	A stupid idea!! The local primary school is inefficient. At the last election the car park was full and the entrance	The Acting Returning Officer visited the Pavilion and will propose that this is used as

		<p>blocked by a huge police van. I remonstrated with the police officer but just received obscene language as a reply. The adjacent street was packed with cars and so anyone who was disabled could only do one thing. That is not vote. I believe the reason for choosing this station is politically driven. That is enough.</p> <p>Why not use what we used to use -that large building on the Claregate Playing Field?</p>	<p>the polling station as it is a good alternative to a school.</p>
TR2	Polling Station – Claregate Primary School	<p>Being shortly before SATS and in a bank holiday weekend makes revision very difficult so if it could be moved to Christ the King, that would help us immensely.</p>	As above
TR3	Voter	<p>St Michael's c of e primary school. We have no choice but to close the school at the disruption to pupils and staff. Always near SATS week! Bring back a portable polling station or pay the school more for the disruption!</p>	<p>The Acting Returning Officer takes this feedback on board and it is the aim of this review to reduce the need for schools, but also to only use temporary stations where there are no suitable alternative venues.</p>

## Tettenhall Wightwick

Polling District	Respondent type	Representation	Returning Officer response to representation
TW1	Councillor Crofts and Councillor Turrell		Feedback noted. No further action required.
All Districts	Liberal Democrats	Tettenhall Wightwick also has 6 polling districts with the three smallest being TWA, (1,183), TWC (1,282), and TWD (1,155). These 3 are all in line across the top of the ward and could make two polling districts averaging 1,810 by splitting TWC between TWA and TWD and re-naming TWE and TWF as TWD and TWE.	The Acting Returning Officer notes the feedback and appreciates the effort to equalise the polling district numbers from an administrative perspective, however unlike the ward boundary review this is not the aim with the polling district review. These proposals would reduce the number of polling stations and increase the distance that some electors would have to travel.
TW2	Councillor Crofts and Councillor Turrell	There have been large queues on both temporaries before. The space is not used very often. Contact the supplier to see if there is anything more substantial for this site from the rain.	The supplier is not able to offer another type of unit as they would also need to supply a separate generator and chemical toilet which would be problematic to get hold of the generators for a short period of time.

TW3	Councillor Crofts and Councillor Turrell	<p>Access for turning into this station can be quite tight due to the walls and there is not much parking so electors have to park elsewhere.</p> <p>In the past we have had road works on the day which has caused issues with traffic on the day, which could put people off from voting.</p>	Feedback noted. This can be a busy station. The Acting Returning Officer does always check if there are any significant road works near any of the polling stations and will mitigate this as necessary.
TW4	Councillor Crofts and Councillor Turrell	Security guard on the school works well. Polling station is out the ward but nothing really in arear and have received no complaints from electors.	Feedback noted. No further action required.
TW5	Councillor Crofts and Councillor Turrell		Feedback noted. No further action required.
TW5	Voter	<p>With regards to the boundary it cuts right through Finchfield and therefore some of the less mobile residents may struggle to get to the appropriate Merry Hill polling stations.</p> <p>The venue is unchanged for myself so I am pleased to see that it is still accessible.</p> <p>The one comment I would make regarding the polling station is at night it can be very dark. This could lead to issues for pedestrians arriving</p>	Feedback noted. The Acting Returning Officer will liaise with the polling station venue around lighting to further assess the arrangements to see if additional lighting is required.

		at night on foot as you can walk through the alley by the houses from one end, but the other requires you to walk across the carpark as cars are pulling into the carpark from the main road and with the hedges drivers are going to struggle to see people walking across in the dark until they are very close.	
TW5	Voter	<p>The polling district boundaries for Castlecroft do not seem to have changed. They fit our community.</p> <p>Parking at the church is good, though exiting by car is not good. The brow of the hill on Windmill Lane obscures sight of oncoming vehicles as one leaves the parking site by car. It is a blind summit.</p>	Feedback noted. The Acting Returning Officer will liaise with the polling station venue around this issue to see if any additional signs can be produced to help mitigate this risk.
TW6	Councillor Crofts and Councillor Turrell		Feedback noted. No further action required.

### Wednesfield North

Polling District	Respondent type	Representation	Returning Officer response to representation
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WN1	Voter	I would like schools to be discontinued from being used as polling station. With reference to Woodend school, the Methodist Church in Woodend Road is also used as a polling station. Is that necessary with so little distance between them? Let the children go to school.	The Acting Returning Officer accepts the feedback; however, Wednesfield Methodist Church is currently in the process of being sold, and will therefore, not be available as a polling station in the future.
WN1	Councillor Philip Bateman	Woodend school goes to the Methodist Church, which is the best alternative as on the other side of the road. Church is being sold but hasn't been sold. Loosing shops at wood end is not an issue. Still happy with WNA.	Feedback noted, no further action required.
WN2	Councillor Phillip Bateman	Happy with the proposal.	Feedback noted, no further action required.
WN3	Councillor Mary Bateman	Problem is there is a lot of elderly people, and it is not flat. Lost a lot of voters and get a lot of complaints. It is too steep for elderly voters.	Feedback noted, and action addressed in point below.  The furthest area away from the polling station in this district is Wolmer Road which is 0.6 miles away from Ashmore Park Baptist Church. Same for WNE and . WND
WN3	Councillor Phillip Bateman	Used to have a temporary station at the top of Higgs Road by shops and bus stop	The Acting Returning Officer accepts the feedback and a temporary polling station will

		and Griffiths Drive. Used to have a better turn out with a temporary. Glad it is back in. Best consultation we have had and is detailed. There is also a big piece of land at the true Britain on snape road, however, will not be as visible.	be placed at the top of Higgs Road, and the boundary lines will be redrawn to accommodate merging parts of WNC, WND, and WNE.
WN4	Councillor Mary Bateman	Top half of WND and top half of WNC previously voted at the temporary station on Higgs Road. Bus route is used frequently which runs right by the polling station.	This feedback has been noted and echoes the points raised by other Councillors. Therefore, temporary station will be placed at the top of Higgs Road subject to risk assessment.
WN4 and WN5	Liberal Democrats	2 districts with the lowest electorates are adjacent to each other (WND and WNE) and can be combined by removing the crinkly line between them, resulting in a new total of 2,260. Adjustments could be made to the boundaries to even up the electorates between WNA, WNB and WNC, but not strictly necessary here.	This feedback has been noted and echoes the points raised by Councillors. Therefore, parts of WNC, WND, and WNE will be merged, and a temporary station will be placed at the top of Higgs Road.
WN6	Councillor Mary Bateman	Would prefer for Oak Meadow to still be used due to	Feedback noted, no further action required.

		travelling too far for St Albans. Busy roads to cross if it is changed.	
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### Wednesfield South

Polling District	Respondent type	Representation	Returning Officer response to representation
All Districts	Liberal Democrats	Wednesfield South has 7 polling districts, not justified by its ward total of 9,344. Again it has 2 under 1,000 electors, which could be combined with adjacent polling districts, and still keep the combined total below 2,500. Combining WSB and WSC together, with WS3 as the only polling station gives a total of 2,217 electors; and combining WSD and WSE, a total of 2,406, keeping WS4 as the polling station for both areas. At present there is a very strange boundary between WSD and WSE so removing it simplifies the shape of the polling district as a new WSC. WSF and WSG would be	The Acting Returning Officer has previously proposed combining WSB and WSC together, but feedback was received from ward councillors and electors that this is too far for many elderly residents who live in the area to travel. This will not be taken further at this time.
WS3	Edward the Elder Primary School	Previously Edward the Elder Primary has been used as a polling station, The map now	Feedback noted, no further action.



		looks like it would not need to be used. If this is the case, I would support this. It would be preferable for the pupils not to miss a day of learning at school if possible.	
WS6	Voter	Happy with the proposed boundaries and polling station is centrally located, within walking distance.	Feedback noted, no further actions.

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<b>CITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON COUNCIL</b>	<b>Meeting of the City Council 2 November 2022</b>
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<b>Report title</b>	Key Decisions made under Decision Made Under Special Urgency Provisions	
<b>Referring body</b>	N/A	
<b>Councillor to present report</b>	Councillor Ian Brookfield	
<b>Wards affected</b>	All Wards	
<b>Cabinet Member with lead responsibility</b>	Councillor Ian Brookfield Leader of the Council	
<b>Accountable director</b>	David Pattison, Director of Governance	
<b>Originating service</b>	Governance	
<b>Accountable employee</b>	David Pattison	Director of Governance
	Tel	01902 553840
	Email	David.pattison@wolverhampton.gov.uk
<b>Report to be/has been considered by</b>		

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**Recommendation for decision:**

The Council is recommended to:

1. To note the decision made under Special Urgency Provisions.

## 1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform the Council of a Key Decision made under Decision Made Under Special Urgency Provisions.

## 2.0 Background

- 2.1 Under the Council's Constitution, Part 4, Cabinet Procedure Rules:

The Leader must submit to the Council a report on Key Decisions made where the Special Urgency provisions were used. This applies where it is not practicable to give notice at least 5 clear days in advance before a Key Decision is made.

## 3.0 Special Urgency Provisions

- 3.1 The table below details the decision taken under Special Urgency Provisions:

<b>Decision maker</b>	<b>Date Approved</b>	<b>Contact Officer</b>
Cabinet	7 September 2022	Julie Bell-Barker 01902 550143
<b>Title and summary of decision</b>		
Amendment to Capital Programme		
<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Approve the virement from the Capital Corporate Provision for Future Programmes to the Civic Halls Refurbishment programme as outlined in the report.</li><li>2. Approve the use of the Covid contingency for Civic Halls Refurbishment for general project purposes.</li><li>3. Authorise the Council entering into a Deed of Variation with AEG Presents to incorporate the additional works outlined in the report.</li></ol>		

<b>CITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON COUNCIL</b>	<b>Meeting of the City Council 2 November 2022</b>
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<b>Report title</b>	Written Questions by Councillors – July Meeting	
<b>Referring person</b>	Councillor Jonathan Crofts, Councillor Stephanie Haynes, Councillor Wendy Dalton, Councillor Wendy Thompson and Councillor Andy Randle	
<b>Wards affected</b>	All Wards	
<b>Cabinet Member with lead responsibility</b>	Councillor Paula Brookfield, Cabinet Member for Governance and Equalities Councillor Jasbir Jaspal, Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing Councillor Stephen Simkins, Deputy Leader Inclusive City Economy	
<b>Accountable director</b>	David Pattison, Chief Operating Officer	
<b>Originating service</b>	Governance	
<b>Accountable employee</b>	David Pattison	Chief Operating Officer
	Tel	01902 550320
	Email	David.pattison@wolverhampton.gov.uk

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**Recommendation for action:**

The Council is recommended to:

That the relevant Executive Members respond to the questions received in accordance with the Council's procedure rules for a maximum of 30 minutes.

## **1.0 Purpose**

1.1 For Councillors to respond to the questions received which were deferred from the July meeting:

### **a. Motions**

Councillor Jonathan Crofts to ask the Cabinet Member for Governance and Equalities:

*Please can the Cabinet Member set out the decision-making process of whether or not a motion is in order, legally sound and does not risk leaving the council open to legal action?*

### **b. Police and Crime Panel**

Councillor Stephanie Haynes to ask the Lead Member on the West Midlands Police and Crime Panel:

*Please can the Cabinet Member provide an update on the work of the police and crime panel since its last meeting?*

### **c. City Centre Hotel**

Councillor Wendy Dalton to ask the Deputy Leader Inclusive City Economy:

*Please can the Deputy Leader provide an update on the Council's plans for a City Centre Hotel and what work has been carried out to deliver this?*

### **d. Lichfield Street Post Office**

Councillor Wendy Thompson to ask the Deputy Leader Inclusive City Economy:

*Please can the Deputy Leader advise what the Council is doing to support the regeneration of the old post office on lower Lichfield Street?*

### **e. Heath Town Baths**

Councillor Andy Randle to ask the Deputy Leader Inclusive City Economy:

*After the recent fire at the Council owned and long derelict Heath Town Baths, please can the Deputy Leader provide an update on this much neglected site?*

<b>CITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON COUNCIL</b>	<b>Meeting of the City Council 2 November 2022</b>
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<b>Report title</b>	Written Questions by Councillors – September Meeting	
<b>Referring person</b>	Councillor Wendy Thompson	
<b>Wards affected</b>	All Wards	
<b>Cabinet Member with lead responsibility</b>	Councillor Chris Burden, Cabinet Member for Education, Skills and Work	
<b>Accountable director</b>	David Pattison, Chief Operating Officer	
<b>Originating service</b>	Governance	
<b>Accountable employee</b>	David Pattison	Chief Operating Officer
	Tel	01902 550320
	Email	David.pattison@wolverhampton.gov.uk

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**Recommendation for action:**

The Council is recommended to:

That the relevant Executive Members respond to the questions received in accordance with the Council's procedure rules for a maximum of 30 minutes.

## **1.0 Purpose**

1.1 For Councillors to respond to the questions received.

### **a. Second Hand Uniform Shop**

Councillor Wendy Thompson to ask the Cabinet Member for Education, Skills and Work:

*What is the Council doing to encourage every school in Wolverhampton to have a second hand uniform shop to aid parents and carers when having to afford school clothing for their children?*



<b>CITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON COUNCIL</b>	<b>Meeting of the City Council 2 November 2022</b>
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<b>Report title</b>	Written Questions by Councillors	
<b>Referring person</b>	Councillor Adam Collinge, Councillor Andrew McNeil, Councillor Ellis Turrell	
<b>Wards affected</b>	All Wards	
<b>Cabinet Member with lead responsibility</b>	Councillor Obaida Ahmed, Cabinet Member for Resources and Digital City Councillor Stephen Simkins, Deputy Leader: Inclusive City Economy Councillor Steve Evans, Cabinet Member for City Environment and Climate Change	
<b>Accountable director</b>	David Pattison, Director of Governance	
<b>Originating service</b>	Governance	
<b>Accountable employee</b>	David Pattison	Director of Governance
	Tel	01902 550320
	Email	David.pattison@wolverhampton.gov.uk

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**Recommendation for action:**

The Council is recommended to:

That the relevant Executive Members respond to the questions received in accordance with the Council's procedure rules for a maximum of 30 minutes.

## 1.0 Purpose

1.1 For the Cabinet Members to respond to the questions received:

### a. Council Tax (Energy) Rebate

Councillor Adam Collinge to ask the Cabinet Member for Resources and Digital City:

*Can the portfolio holder confirm the lessons learned and the actions taken to address the shortcomings in the Council's rollout and distribution of the Government funded £150 Council Tax (Energy) Rebate and the additional Government funded Discretionary Fund, given that:*

- i. by the September 2022 deadline, over a fifth of eligible households (around 27,000 households) in Wolverhampton had either not applied for or had not received their direct payment, and*
- ii. applications to the Discretionary Fund were minimal*

### b. Black Country Plan

Councillor Andrew McNeil to ask the Deputy Leader: Inclusive City Economy:

*Having previously ignored Bushbury North residents' wishes, and sold a Council community asset destroying Broadway Green, can the Cabinet Member confirm that they will be using the opportunity to replace Wolverhampton Council's terribly destructive Black Country Plan submission, with a new local plan that does not destroy highly environmentally valuable countryside, our green belt protection and much-loved walking routes?*

### c. Recycling

Councillor Ellis Turrell to ask the Cabinet Member for City Environment and Climate Change:

*A recent study by the 'Every Can Counts' campaign found that Wolverhampton is the worst city in the UK for recycling at home, with just 28% of residents always recycling at home. How does this align with the Council's pledge to be a 'green city', and what steps have been taken to increase recycling rates in the city?*

<b>CITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON COUNCIL</b>	<b>Meeting of the City Council</b> <b>2 November 2022</b>
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<b>Report title</b>	Motion on Notice – September Meeting
<b>Referring body/person</b>	Councillor Simon Bennett
<b>Wards affected</b>	All Wards
<b>Cabinet Member with lead responsibility</b>	N/A
<b>Accountable director</b>	David Pattison, Chief Operating Officer
<b>Originating service</b>	Governance
<b>Accountable employee</b>	David Pattison Chief Operating Officer Tel 01902 550320 Email <a href="mailto:David.pattison@wolverhampton.gov.uk">David.pattison@wolverhampton.gov.uk</a>

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**Recommendation for action:**

The Council is recommended to:

Consider the motion received in accordance with the Council's procedure rules for a maximum of 50 minutes.

## **1.0 Purpose**

1.1 For Council to consider the motions received:

### **a. Tribute to Alderman Paddy Bradley**

Councillor Simon Bennett will move the following motion:

*“This Council agrees to a permanent tribute in the Penn ward to former councillor and Alderman Paddy Bradley, who gave over 40 years of dedicated service to the residents of Wolverhampton and sadly passed away in June; and requests that the Director of Governance presents a proposal on such a tribute to the Governance and Ethics Committee before the end of the current Municipal Year.”*

<b>CITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON COUNCIL</b>	<b>Meeting of the City Council</b> <b>2 November 2022</b>
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<b>Report title</b>	Motion on Notice
<b>Referring person</b>	Councillor Ian Brookfield
<b>Wards affected</b>	All Wards
<b>Cabinet Member with lead responsibility</b>	N/A
<b>Accountable director</b>	David Pattison, Chief Operating Officer
<b>Originating service</b>	Governance
<b>Accountable employee</b>	David Pattison Chief Operating Officer Tel 01902 550320 Email <a href="mailto:David.pattison@wolverhampton.gov.uk">David.pattison@wolverhampton.gov.uk</a>

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**Recommendation for decision:**

The Council is recommended to:

Consider the motion received in accordance with the Council's procedure rules for a maximum of 50 minutes.

## 1.0 Purpose

1.1 For Council to consider the motion received:

### a. Cost of Living

Councillor Ian Brookfield, Leader of the Council, will move the following motion:

*“This Council recognises that we are in the midst of the worst cost of living crisis for 50 years which is affecting every family across Wolverhampton. Many people are facing dreadful decisions about what they can and cannot afford to do at the most basic levels - some having to choose between heating their homes, travelling to work or feeding their families.*

*We further call on this Council to urge the Government to uplift all benefits in line with the current rate of inflation, not to do so will cost many lives.*

*Finally, this Council is shocked of the possibility of further, major cuts to all public services by this Tory Government of 12 years standing. We urge our local MPs to join with others to campaign and fight against these damaging proposals.”*