

# 12

**COMMITTEE:** FULL COUNCIL                      REF NO: C/23/20

**DATE:** 24 JANUARY 2024

**SUBJECT:** IPSWICH BOROUGH COUNCIL POLLING  
DISTRICT AND POLLING PLACE REVIEW  
2023-25

**SENIOR OFFICER:** HELEN PLUCK (ELECTORAL REGISTRATION  
OFFICER)

***Short description of report content and the decision requested:***

This report sets out proposed changes to a number of polling districts and polling places as part of a review carried out under Section 17 of the Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013.

The proposals have taken account of the representations received and have attempted to ensure that there is a balance of the electorate within each polling district and that polling places are convenient and easily accessible for voters. Council is asked to agree the polling districts and polling places, as set out in the attached schedules.

***Wards affected:***

Alexandra, Bixley, Bridge, Castle Hill, Gainsborough, Gipping, Holywells, Priory Heath, Rushmere, Sprites, St John's, St Margaret's, Stoke Park, Westgate, Whitehouse, Whitton.

***List of Appendices included in this report:***

Appendix 1 – Existing voting arrangements  
Appendix 2 – Summary of proposals  
Appendix 3 – Schedule of changes proposed in the consultation  
Appendix 4 – Public consultation comments

This report has been prepared by Helen Pluck  
Email: [helen.pluck@ipswich.gov.uk](mailto:helen.pluck@ipswich.gov.uk)

***This report was prepared after consultation with:***

Electoral Services Working Group.

***The following policies form a context to this report:  
(all relevant policies must also be referred to in the body of the report)***

*Corporate Strategy – Proud of Ipswich: Championing our Community and  
Revitalising our Town*

This report is not a key decision included in the Forward Plan.

### **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS AS REQUIRED BY LAW**

*(Papers relied on to write the report, but which are not published and do not contain  
exempt information –*

None.

### **OTHER HELPFUL PAPERS**

*(Papers which the report author considers might be helpful – this might include  
published material)*

1. Elections Act 2022
2. Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013
3. Representation of the People Act 1983
4. Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places Regulations (Parliamentary  
Elections) Regulations 2006
5. C-11-20 Ipswich Borough Council Polling District Review 2011
6. C-13-15 Ipswich Borough Council Polling District Review 2013-14
7. C-20-14 Ipswich Borough Council Polling District Review 2018-20

---

## 1. Executive Summary

---

- 1.1 Under Section 17 of the Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013, the Council is required to carry out a review of polling districts and places every 5 years. This review commenced on 1 October 2023 and must be concluded by 31 December 2025. The previous review was held in 2018.
- 1.2 The Electoral Services team has now undertaken a full review of all polling districts, places and polling stations in accordance with the legislative provisions and the Electoral Commission's guidance in readiness to be implemented for the next scheduled elections to be held on 2 May 2024.
- 1.3 For ease of reference, the following terms are defined by the Electoral Commission as:
- polling district – This is a geographical sub-division of an electoral area (e.g. a UK Parliamentary constituency, a ward or an electoral division.) It is the responsibility of the Borough Council to divide its area into polling districts and for keeping the polling districts under review.
  - polling place – This is an area or building in which a polling station is located. There is no legal definition of what a polling place is, and it could be defined as tightly as a particular building or as widely as a sports field. It is the responsibility of the Borough Council to designate polling places and for keeping them under review.
  - polling station – This is the actual area where the process of voting takes place and must be located within the polling place designated for a particular polling district. For example, a room within a school building or a mobile unit placed on a recreation ground. The Returning Officer for the particular election must provide a sufficient number of polling stations and allot the electors to those polling stations in a manner as she thinks the most convenient.
- 1.4 This review does **not** affect any ward, county division or Parliamentary constituency boundaries; this review is purely about the administrative subdivision of a ward into polling districts that are then assigned polling places.

---

## **2. Background**

---

### **(a) Review Procedure**

2.1 The steps that must be undertaken in carrying out a review and the persons to be consulted are determined by legislation:

- (i) A review begins with the Council drawing up its proposals and publishing a notice at its offices and on its website stating that the review is to be held.
- (ii) The Acting Returning Officer(s) for any Parliamentary constituencies, wholly or partly, contained in the Borough must be consulted on the Council's proposals and are required to make comments. Therefore, the Acting Returning Officers for the Ipswich and the Central Suffolk and North Ipswich Constituencies were invited to comment.
- (iii) Representations on proposals must be sought from persons having particular expertise in relation to access to premises or facilities for persons who have different forms of disability. Electors also have the right to make representations. Groups invited to comment included local physical and sensory disability groups, along with local groups for people with mental ill health and/or learning disabilities. The consultation notice and background information were displayed on the Council's website and the public notice board in Grafton House window between 20 November and 29 December 2023 inclusive.
- (iv) In addition, comments were sought from Members of Parliament for the constituencies affected by the review, from Borough and County Councillors and from local election agents.
- (v) Once the consultation has been carried out, the Council must consider the responses and decide whether to confirm its proposals with or without modifications. The results of the review must be published.

2.2 The approach taken in carrying out the review of this Council's polling districts and polling places has been based on the Electoral Services team's knowledge of the existing districts and places, informed by the views of local Councillors and feedback from Presiding Officers, Poll Clerks and Polling Station Inspectors in recent elections. These sources have identified a small number of minor issues and efforts have been made to address these in the review.

### **(b) The Rules and Guidance for Conducting the Review**

2.3 There are a number of points which the Council must take into account in designating polling districts and polling places. These include the following:

- (i) All electors should have such reasonable facilities for voting as are practicable in the circumstances.

- (ii) Polling places should, as far as is reasonable and practicable, be accessible to all electors, including those who are disabled and, when considering the designation of polling places, the Council must have regard to the accessibility needs of disabled persons
- (iii) A polling place should be distinct enough to be capable of being described sufficiently clearly so that electors can identify and find their polling stations.
- (iv) It is possible to designate a polling place which is not within the polling district it serves if there are special circumstances.

**(c) Accessibility for Persons with Disabilities**

- 2.4 As indicated above Returning Officers are required to have regard to accessibility issues for people with disabilities when designating polling places. The premises used for polling stations in the Borough are all accessible 'so far as is reasonable and practicable'. Polling station staff are also trained to give whatever assistance is possible should this be required. This issue is one upon which feedback is sought from Presiding Officers and the Polling Station Inspectors after each set of elections.

**(d) Proposals**

- 2.5 A list of current polling stations can be seen in Appendix 1. Appendix 2 shows a summary of proposals for each polling district. Appendix 3 contains the details of the amendments to specific polling places and polling districts which were proposed in the consultation.
- 2.6 The review suggests a number of changes to polling stations for the Returning Officer to consider. This is an evolving process and where better options become evident, attempts will be made to obtain these. The location of polling stations is a decision made by the Returning Officer. Whilst the Returning Officer has the power to requisition the use of buildings provided from public funds, such as schools, she has no such powers in respect of private buildings.

**(e) Comments Received During Consultation**

- 2.7 The comments and suggestions received during the period of consultation on the review's proposals are set out in Appendix 4, as are the responses to them.
- 2.8 During consideration of the comments received, members of the Electoral Services Working Group suggested that the polling place for polling district MB (Sprites) would be a convenient polling place for polling district IA (Stoke Park). This will require the venue's suitability for a double polling station to be assessed which was not possible prior to the publication of this report. An assessment will be made and the result reported to Council.

---

### **3. Relevant Policies**

---

- 3.1 Issues of effective local government reflect the identities, interests and wishes of local communities and to achieve convenient voting arrangements.
- 3.2 As part of the 2023 Corporate Strategy, the fourth priority of “*promoting (community wellbeing and) fairness in Ipswich*” is supported by providing a fair access to voting facilities across all polling districts in the Borough.
- 3.3 The Corporate Strategy priority 5 “*a financially sustainable council providing good quality services*” is supported by the polling district public consultation by allowing Ipswich residents to input on this their voting needs and in turn being used to guide decisions for voting facilities on this.

---

### **4. Options Considered / Under Consideration**

---

- 4.1 In Stoke Park ward two options were originally proposed and a further option was suggested during consultation with the Electoral Services Working Group:
- 4.2 Option 1 was to continue using a temporary mobile polling station; this option provides poor facilities for voters and staff, is costly and it is understood that the mobile polling station has caused confusion for voters in adjacent polling districts. Option 1 is therefore not recommended.
- 4.3 Option 2 is to move the polling station to the existing polling place at Willows Childrens Centre. This would result in improved and permanent voting facilities in an established polling place, however, it would require many voters to cross Birkfield Drive. Option 2 is recommended if Option 3 is not practicable.
- 4.4 Option 3 is to move the polling station to the existing polling place at the Belstead Arms. Subject to the assessment of the suitability of the venue for a “double” polling station, this would also result in improved and permanent voting facilities in an established polling place. The practicability of this option will be assessed and the results reported to Council.
- 4.5 There is one proposal each for Priory Heath ward and Whitton ward.

---

### **5. Consultations**

---

- 5.1 As stated above, a public consultation exercise took place between 20 November and 29 December 2023 inclusive. Stakeholders and the public were invited to make recommendations and to provide feedback on the proposals. 17 responses were received and are shown in Appendix 4.

## 6. Risk Management

Risk Description	Consequence of risk	Risk Controls	Probability of risk occurring taking account of controls (scale 1-6) 1 – almost impossible 6 – very high	Impact of risk, if it occurred taking account of actions (scale 1 – negligible; 4 – catastrophic)	Actions to mitigate risk
1. Failure to complete this review within the statutory timescale and not in accordance with the legislative requirements.	Potential disenfranchisement of some voters. The Electoral Commission intervention.	Periodic polling district reviews are compulsory and legally prescribed.	2	1	The review has been undertaken within the prescribed process and appropriate recommendations are being made to Council for adoption.
2. Failure to complete this review may adversely affect these arrangements, albeit this could not affect the result of any future election.	An unequal and / or difficult voting experience for the electorate.	Periodic polling district reviews are compulsory and legally prescribed.	2	2	The review has been undertaken within the prescribed process and appropriate recommendations are being made to Council for adoption.
3. Unsuitable locations for polling places and polling stations are sought or agreed during the review.	An unequal and / or difficult voting experience for the electorate. Potential disenfranchisement of some voters.	Consult all stakeholders. Analyse feedback from the consultation inline with the Electoral Commission's guidance for polling districts and places.	2	1	The review has been undertaken within the prescribed process and appropriate recommendations are being made to Council for adoption.

---

## **7. Environment and Climate Change**

---

- 7.1 The Council has declared a climate change emergency and has resolved to start working towards becoming carbon neutral by 2030. All Council decisions should take into account and respond to the potential impact that they will have on the climate and wider environment.
- 7.2 The proposals in this report will not have a direct impact on the climate and wider environment.

---

## **8. Equalities, Diversity and Community Implications**

---

- 8.1 The review of polling places and polling stations is likely to have a positive impact on equality and diversity issues as the venues must be reviewed in terms of accessibility.
- 8.2 A suitability and access checklist provided by the Electoral Commission was used when surveying each polling station.
- 8.3 An Equality Impact Assessment took place and concluded that there would be no negative impact for those with protected characteristics.

---

## **9. Crime and Disorder Impact**

---

- 9.1 There are no crime and disorder impacts arising from this report. All polling places are required to have adequate lighting which helps to deter potential criminality in the vicinity.

---

## **10. Financial Considerations**

---

- 10.1 The cost of the polling district and polling places review has been met from within existing Electoral Registration budget.
- 10.2 The proposals will have minimal effect on the cost of providing future elections.

<b>Polling station</b>	<b>Current cost</b>	<b>Cost if proposal implemented</b>
Priory Heath – DC – Ravenswood Primary School	£220.00	No additional costs due to same room being hired.
Stoke Park – IA – Option 1 – continue with mobile unit	£1,273.00	£1,273.00 – no change



Stoke Park – IA – Option 2 – relocate to Willow's Childrens Centre	£1,273.00	A small charge of approximately £50 to cover extra light / heat in an additional room within the building. The cost overall would be £1,223 lower than the current arrangement.
Stoke Park – IA – Option 3 – relocate to Belstead Arms	£1,273.00	If the existing room is suitable then there would be no additional costs, meaning that the cost overall would be £1,273 lower than the current arrangement.
Whitton - KA and KC	£575.00	Currently unknown. Average hire charge for community buildings is approximately £300-£400.

---

## 11. Legal Considerations

---

- 11.1 The Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013, Section 17 requires each authority to carry out a review of polling districts, polling places and polling stations within the 16 months beginning 1<sup>st</sup> October 2013 and every five years thereafter. Reviews are compulsory and must be conducted within the timescales provided by legislation.
- 11.2 Under Representation of the People Act 1983, Section 18A, local authorities must comply with following the legislative requirements regarding the designation of polling districts and polling places. This also includes complying with accessibility requirements.
- 11.3 The Elections Act 2022 Section 9 provides a duty for Returning Officers to provide each polling station with accessibility equipment and therefore the polling district review should consider the space required within a polling station for this.
- 11.3 Under Section 18D(1) of Representation of the People Act 1983, eligible persons can make an appeal against the conduction of the review by lodging an appeal with the Electoral Commission. This includes both the way in which the review was carried out and the outcome of the review.

---

## 12. Performance Monitoring

---

- 12.1 It is a statutory duty to carry out a full review of polling districts, polling places and polling stations every five years. In addition, the Returning Officer needs to review the locations of polling stations to ensure that these are placed in the most appropriate areas of a polling place to enable electors in that area to cast their vote.

- 12.2 Informal reviews take place after every election, using feedback from voters, polling station staff, polling station inspectors and venue owners. Logbooks from each polling station are reviewed, along with notes compiled during the polling station inspections.

---

### **13. Conclusions**

---

- 13.1 The Council has undertaken a review of its polling district and polling places in accordance with the legislation and has considered the responses received in the consultation. The outcome will be a reasonably balanced distribution of electorate across the polling districts, in turn allowing easy access to polling places and with adequate and accessible facilities for voting in a polling station. The impact will enable the best available voting experience for the electorate of Ipswich.

---

### **14. Recommendations**

---

- 14.1 That Council note the findings of the Polling District and Polling Place Review 2023-25.
- 14.2 That Council agree either Option 2 (Willows Children's Centre) or Option 3 (Belstead Arms) for the Polling District 1A, and that the option selected be incorporated into Appendix 2.
- 14.3 That Council agree the proposed amendments to polling districts and polling places, as set out in Appendix 2, as revised by the decision at 14.2.
- 14.4 That Council agrees to the formal publication of a final report on the Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places, as required by the Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013.
- 14.5 That Council recommend to the Returning Officer the polling places and polling stations, as set out in Appendix 2, as revised by the decision at 14.2, for use at future elections until the next scheduled polling district review commences in 2028.

## Schedule of current voting arrangements 2023

Ward	Polling District	Polling Place	Polling Station	*Electorate	**Postal Voters	***Average turnout at Polling Station
Alexandra	AA	Christ Church, Tacket Street, Ipswich IP4 1AU	Turret Hall	2,131	411	Local election: 15% National election: 53%
Alexandra	AB	Zoar Baptist Church, St Helen's Street, Ipswich, IP4 2LH	School Room	1,800	482	Local election: 27% National election: 68%
Alexandra	AC	Zoar Baptist Church, St Helen's Street, Ipswich, IP4 2LH	School Room	1,553	330	Local election: 35% National election: 67%
Alexandra	AD	Clifford Road Primary School, Ipswich, IP4 1PJ	Nursery	1,076	256	Local election: 26% National election: 69%
Alexandra	AE	Baptist Church, 35 Cauldwell Hall Road, Ipswich, IP4 4QG	Hall	1,254	335	Local election: 26% National election: 72%
Holywells	BA	St Bartholomew's Church, Newton Road, Ipswich, IP3 8HQ	Hall	939	226	Local election: 25% National election: 68%
Holywells	BB	Methodist Church, Alan Road, Ipswich, IP3 8EY	Hall	1,424	402	Local election: 25% National election: 62%
Holywells	BC	St Luke's Church Hall, Cliff Lane, Ipswich, IP3 0PJ	Hall	1,862	693	Local election: 31% National election: 70%
Holywells	BD	The Hold, 131 Fore Street, Ipswich, IP4 1LR	Education Room	1,572	274	Local election: 14% National election: 51%
Gainsborough	CA	All Hallows Church Hall, 320 Landseer Road, Ipswich, IP3 9LR	Hall	907	263	Local election: 16% National election: 52%
Gainsborough	CB	All Hallows Church Hall, 320 Landseer Road, Ipswich, IP3 9LR	Hall	469	94	Local election: 16% National election: 48%
Gainsborough	CC	Methodist Church, Landseer Road, Ipswich, IP3 9LX	Hall	1,481	458	Local election: 18% National election: 62%
Gainsborough	CD	Evangelical Church, Leighton Road, Ipswich, IP3 0LJ	Hall	1,406	376	Local election: 15% National election: 52%
Gainsborough	CE	Gainsborough Library, 165 Clapgate Lane, Ipswich, IP3 9LR	Community Room	1,859	515	Local election: 21% National election: 57%

**\*Electorate = total number of electors allocated to a polling station if all voted in person.**

**\*\* Postal Voters = total number who do not visit a polling station because of requesting to vote by post.**

**\*\*\*Average turnout at polling stations 2018-2023**

Ward	Polling District	Polling Place	Polling Station	*Electorate	**Postal Voters	***Average turnout at Polling Station
Priory Heath	DA	Congregation Church, Hatfield Road, Ipswich IP 9AF	Hall	1,475	468	Local election: 25% National election: 68%
Priory Heath	DB	Baptist Church, Nansen Road, Ipswich IP3 9HN	Hall	1,939	559	Local election: 21% National election: 58%
Priory Heath	DC	Ravenswood School, Ravenswood Avenue, Ipswich IP3 9UA	Community Room	2,250	611	Local election: 19% National election: 62%
Priory Heath	DD	Inspire Suffolk, Lindbergh Road, Ipswich, IP3 9XQ	Classroom	1,015	261	Local election: 19% National election: 53%
St John's	EA	St John's URC, 1 Cowper Street, Ipswich, IP4 5JD	Hall	1,703	412	Local election: 23% National election: 67%
St John's	EB	St Andrew's Church Hall, Britannia Road, Ipswich, IP4 5HF	Hall	1,071	395	Local election: 26% National election: 73%
St John's	EC	Baptist Church, 35 Cauldwell Hall Road, Ipswich, IP4 4QG	Hall	1,093	307	Local election: 26% National election: 68%
St John's	ED	St John's URC, 1 Cowper Street, Ipswich, IP4 5JD	Hall	1,346	395	Local election: 27% National election: 68%
St John's	EE	St Andrew's Church Hall, Britannia Road, Ipswich, IP4 5HF	Hall	1,733	495	Local election: 26% National election: 73%
Bixley	FA	St Elizabeth Hospice Charity Café / Shop, 1-3 Heath Road, Ipswich IP4 5RZ	Café / Shop	1,284	510	Local election: 23% National election: 68%
Bixley	FB	St Augustine's Church Hall, Bucklesham Road, Ipswich, IP3 8TH	Hall	1,785	727	Local election: 28% National election: 74%
Bixley	FC	Ipswich & District Indoor Bowling Club, 136 Rushmere Road, Ipswich, IP4 4JU	Multi-purpose Room	1,720	639	Local election: 32% National election: 75%
Bixley	FD	Ipswich & District Indoor Bowling Club, 136 Rushmere Road, Ipswich, IP4 4JU	Multi-purpose Room	905	237	Local election: 26% National election: 72%
Rushmere	GA	5th Ipswich Scout Hall, Dumbarton Road, Ipswich, IP4 3JP	Hall	1,153	323	Local election: 19% National election: 69%
Rushmere	GB	Ransomes Sports Pavilion, Sidegate Avenue, Ipswich, IP4 4JJ	Hall	2,347	771	Local election: 30% National election: 74%

\*Electorate = total number of electors allocated to a polling station if all voted in person.

\*\* Postal Voters = total number who do not visit a polling station because of requesting to vote by post.

\*\*\*Average turnout at polling stations 2018-2023

Ward	Polling District	Polling Place	Polling Station	*Electorate	**Postal Voters	***Average turnout at Polling Station
Rushmere	GC	5th Ipswich Scout Hall, Dumbarton Road, Ipswich, IP4 3JP	Hall	1,495	524	Local election: 28% National election: 68%
Rushmere	GD	Ransomes Sports Pavilion, Sidegate Avenue, Ipswich, IP4 4JJ	Hall	1,176	396	Local election: 29% National election: 74%
St Margaret's	HA	Baptist Church, 75 Colchester Road, Ipswich, IP4 4ST	Small Hall	1,124	493	Local election: 43% National election: 80%
St Margaret's	HB	Spill Think Tank, High Street, Ipswich, IP1 3QH	Room 1	1,332	453	Local election: 39% National election: 75%
St Margaret's	HC	Hope Church Centre, 10 St Margaret's Street, Ipswich IP1 3QH	Foyer	2,470	686	Local election: 30% National election: 69%
St Margaret's	HD	Reg Driver Visitor Centre, Christchurch Park, Bolton Lane, Ipswich IP4 2BE	Classroom	1,495	494	Local election: 45% National election: 76%
Stoke Park	IA	Bus Turning Circle, Birkfield Drive, Ipswich, IP2 9UD	Mobile Unit IA	825	246	Local election: 24% National election: 62%
Stoke Park	IB	Willows Children Centre, Via Magdalene Close, Ipswich, IP2 9UX	Classroom	767	275	Local election: 27% National election: 61%
Stoke Park	IC	32nd Ipswich Scout Headquarters, Stoke Park Drive, Ipswich IP2 9JB	Hall (Double station)	2,597	814	Local election: 21% National election: 60%
Stoke Park	ID	Willows Children Centre, Via Magdalene Close, Ipswich, IP2 9UX	Classroom	953	255	Local election: 22% National election: 53%
Westgate	JA	All Saints Church Hall, Blenheim Road, Ipswich, IP1 4EB	Hall	1,209	287	Local election: 17% National election: 58%
Westgate	JB	Methodist Church, 270 Bramford Road, Ipswich, IP1 4AY	Hall	1,899	454	Local election: 18% National election: 59%
Westgate	JC	Salvation Army Hall, 121 Bramford Road, Ipswich, IP1 2LW	Hall	977	204	Local election: 21% National election: 60%
Westgate	JD	Salvation Army Hall, 121 Bramford Road, Ipswich, IP1 2LW	Hall	1,393	326	Local election: 26% National election: 64%

**\*Electorate = total number of electors allocated to a polling station if all voted in person.**

**\*\* Postal Voters = total number who do not visit a polling station because of requesting to vote by post.**

**\*\*\*Average turnout at polling stations 2018-2023**

Ward	Polling District	Polling Place	Polling Station	*Electorate	**Postal Voters	***Average turnout at Polling Station
Westgate	JE	Spill Think Tank, High Street, Ipswich, IP1 3QH	Room 2	831	182	Local election: 29% National election: 69%
Whitton	KA	Ormiston Endeavour Academy, Defoe Road, Ipswich, IP1 6SG	Classroom	1,325	459	Local election: 29% National election: 70%
Whitton	KB	Whitton Sports Centre, Whitton Church Lane, Ipswich IP1 6LW	Squash Court	2,134	489	Local election: 22% National election: 52%
Whitton	KC	Castle Hill United Reformed Church, Dryden Road, Ipswich, IP1 6QF	Large Hall (Double station)	2,651	867	Local election: 24% National election: 69%
Whitehouse	LA	Whitehouse Baptist Church, Waterford Road, Ipswich, IP1 5NW	Hall	1,029	286	Local election: 15% National election: 53%
Whitehouse	LB	24th Ipswich Scout Headquarters, 330A Bramford Road, Ipswich, IP1 5AX	Hall	669	182	Local election: 16% National election: 64%
Whitehouse	LC	Sikh Temple, Guru Nanak Gurdwara, 719 Bramford Road, Ipswich, IP1 58D	Community Room	1,367	335	Local election: 15% National election: 58%
Whitehouse	LD	Whitehouse Baptist Church, Waterford Road, Ipswich, IP1 5NW	Hall	1,417	424	Local election: 14% National election: 58%
Whitehouse	LE	24th Ipswich Scout Headquarters, 330A Bramford Road, Ipswich, IP1 5AX	Hall	1,924	452	Local election: 11% National election: 57%
Sprites	MA	Greenfinch Church, Greenfinch Avenue, Ipswich, IP2 0SX	Hall	1,736	555	Local election: 20% National election: 59%
Sprites	MB	Belstead Arms Public House, Radcliffe Drive, Ipswich IP2 9QA	Function Room	1,402	529	Local election: 23% National election: 64%
Sprites	MC	St Francis Church Hall, 192 Hawthorn Drive, Ipswich IP2 0QQ	Hall	779	261	Local election: 16% National election: 46%
Sprites	MD	St Francis Church Hall, 192 Hawthorn Drive, Ipswich IP2 0QQ	Hall	1,149	375	Local election: 15% National election: 53%
Bridge	NA	St Mary Stoke Church Hall, 54 Stoke Street, Ipswich, IP2 8DA	Hall	1,687	435	Local election: 17% National election: 54%
Bridge	NB	St Mary Stoke Church Hall, 54 Stoke Street, Ipswich, IP2 8DA	Hall	2,034	407	Local election: 19% National election: 55%

\*Electorate = total number of electors allocated to a polling station if all voted in person.

\*\* Postal Voters = total number who do not visit a polling station because of requesting to vote by post.

\*\*\*Average turnout at polling stations 2018-2023

Ward	Polling District	Polling Place	Polling Station	*Electorate	**Postal Voters	***Average turnout at Polling Station
Bridge	NC	Hillside Children's Centre, Maidenhall Approach, Ipswich, IP2 8NY	Classroom	596	201	Local election: 19% National election: 59%
Bridge	ND	Stoke Green Baptist Church, Halifax Road, Ipswich, IP2 8RE	Hall (Double station)	2,257	718	Local election: 19% National election: 57%
Castle Hill	OA	Castle Hill Community Centre, Highfield Road, Ipswich, IP1 6DG	Small Room	1,796	568	Local election: 21% National election: 70%
Castle Hill	OB	Ascension Hall, Larchcroft Road, Ipswich, IP1 6AN	Hall	1,466	464	Local election: 20% National election: 70%
Castle Hill	OC	Broomhill Library, Sherrington Road, Ipswich, IP1 4HT	Library	1,562	432	Local election: 24% National election: 73%
Castle Hill	OD	Ascension Hall, Larchcroft Road, Ipswich, IP1 6AN	Hall	918	321	Local election: 25% National election: 75%
Gipping	PA	The Community Centre, Dickens Road, Ipswich, IP2 0JR	Community Room	1,202	332	Local election: 18% National election: 54%
Gipping	PB	St Mark's Church Hall, 180 Hawthorn Drive, Ipswich, IP2 0QQ	Hall	1,001	258	Local election: 13% National election: 50%
Gipping	PC	Station Hotel, 1 Burrell Road, Ipswich IP2 8AJ	Function Room	1,362	352	Local election: 14% National election: 57%
Gipping	PD	St Mark's Church Hall, 180 Hawthorn Drive, Ipswich, IP2 0QQ	Hall	1,456	391	Local election: 14% National election: 53%
Gipping	PE	Burlington Baptist Church, London Road, Ipswich, IP1 2EZ	Carey Hall	1,306	331	Local election: 18% National election: 54%

\*Electorate = total number of electors allocated to a polling station if all voted in person.

\*\* Postal Voters = total number who do not visit a polling station because of requesting to vote by post.

\*\*\*Average turnout at polling stations 2018-2023

This page is intentionally left blank



## Summary of Proposals

Polling District	Ward	Constituency	Current polling Place	Proposed changes to polling district boundary	Proposed changes to polling place
AA	Alexandra	Ipswich	Christ Church, Tacket Street	No proposed change	No proposed change
AB	Alexandra	Ipswich	Zoar Baptist Church, St Helen's Street	No proposed change	No proposed change
AC	Alexandra	Ipswich	Zoar Baptist Church, St Helen's Street	No proposed change	No proposed change
AD	Alexandra	Ipswich	Nursery at Clifford Road Primary School	No proposed change	No proposed change
AE	Alexandra	Ipswich	Cauldwell Hall Road Baptist Church	No proposed change	No proposed change
BA	Holywells	Ipswich	St Bartholomew's Church, Newton Road	No proposed change	No proposed change
BB	Holywells	Ipswich	Alan Road Methodist Church	No proposed change	No proposed change
BC	Holywells	Ipswich	St Luke's Church Hall, Cliff Lane	No proposed change	No proposed change
BD	Holywells	Ipswich	The Hold, Fore Street	No proposed change	No proposed change
CA	Gainsborough	Ipswich	All Hallows Church Hall, Landseer Road	No proposed change	No proposed change
CB	Gainsborough	Ipswich	All Hallows Church Hall, Landseer Road	No proposed change	No proposed change
CC	Gainsborough	Ipswich	Methodist Church, Landseer Road	No proposed change	No proposed change
CD	Gainsborough	Ipswich	Evangelical Church, Leighton Road	No proposed change	No proposed change

## Appendix 2

Polling District	Ward	Constituency	Current polling Place	Proposed changes to polling district boundary	Proposed changes to polling place
DA	Priory Heath	Ipswich	Congregational Church, Hatfield Road	No proposed change	No proposed change
DB	Priory Heath	Ipswich	Baptist Church, Nansen Road	No proposed change	No proposed change
DC	Priory Heath	Ipswich	Ravenswood Primary School, Ravenswood Avenue	No proposed change	<b>Proposed change: to become a “double” polling station due to growth in electorate by 2028. To be implemented as and when growth requires it.</b>
DD	Priory Heath	Ipswich	Inspire Suffolk, Lindbergh Road	No proposed change	No proposed change
EA	St John’s	Ipswich	St John’s Church, Cowper Street	No proposed change	No proposed change
EB	St John’s	Ipswich	St Andrew’s Church, Britannia Road	No proposed change	No proposed change
EC	St John’s	Ipswich	Baptist Church, Cauldwell Hall Road	No proposed change	No proposed change
ED	St John’s	Ipswich	St John’s Church, Cowper Street	No proposed change	No proposed change
EE	St John’s	Ipswich	St Andrew’s Church, Britannia Road	No proposed change	No proposed change
FA	Bixley	Ipswich	St Elizabeth Hospice Shop/café, Heath Road	No proposed change	No proposed change
FB	Bixley	Ipswich	St Augustine’s Church Hall, Bixley Road	No proposed change	No proposed change

## Appendix 2

Polling District	Ward	Constituency	Current polling Place	Proposed changes to polling district boundary	Proposed changes to polling place
FC	Bixley	Ipswich	Ipswich Bowling Club, Rushmere Road	No proposed change	No proposed change
FD	Bixley	Ipswich	Ipswich Bowling Club, Rushmere Road	No proposed change	No proposed change
GA	Rushmere	Ipswich	5th Ipswich Scout Hall, Dumbarton Road	No proposed change	No proposed change
GB	Rushmere	Ipswich	Ransomes Sports Club, Sidegate Avenue	No proposed change	No proposed change
GC	Rushmere	Ipswich	5th Ipswich Scout Hall, Dumbarton Road	No proposed change	No proposed change
GD	Rushmere	Ipswich	Ransomes Sports Club, Sidegate Avenue	No proposed change	No proposed change
HA	St Margaret's	Ipswich	Colchester Road Baptist Church	No proposed change	No proposed change
HB	St Margaret's	Ipswich	Spill Think Tank, High Street	No proposed change	No proposed change
HC	St Margaret's	Ipswich	Hope Church Centre, St Margaret's Plain	No proposed change	No proposed change
HD	St Margaret's	Ipswich	Reg Driver Centre, Christchurch Park	No proposed change	No proposed change
IA	Stoke Park	Ipswich	Mobile Unit IA, Bus Turning Circle, Birkfield Drive.	No proposed change	<b>Proposed change: to relocate to either the Willow's Childrens Centre, which would become a "triple" polling place, or the Belstead Arms, which would become a "double" polling place.</b>
IB	Stoke Park	Ipswich	Willows Childrens Centre, Magdalene Close	No proposed change	No proposed change

## Appendix 2

Polling District	Ward	Constituency	Current polling Place	Proposed changes to polling district boundary	Proposed changes to polling place
IC	Stoke Park	Ipswich	32nd Ipswich Scout HQ, Stoke Park Drive	No proposed change	No proposed change
ID	Stoke Park	Ipswich	Willows Childrens Centre, Magdalene Close	No proposed change	No proposed change
JA	Westgate	Ipswich	All Saints Church Hall, Blenheim Road	No proposed change	No proposed change
JB	Westgate	Ipswich	Bramford Road Methodist Church	No proposed change	No proposed change
JC	Westgate	Ipswich	Salvation Army Hall, Bramford Road	No proposed change	No proposed change
JD	Westgate	Ipswich	Bramford Road Methodist Church	No proposed change	No proposed change
JE	Westgate	Ipswich	Spill Think Tank, High Street	No proposed change	No proposed change
KA	Whitton	CSNI	Ormiston Endeavour Academy	No proposed change	<b>Proposed change:</b> for streets within the new Henley Gate development in this polling district to be allocated a new polling place at the community centre which is currently under development, as and when electorate growth requires it.
KB	Whitton	CSNI	Whitton Sports Centre, Whitton Church Lane.	No proposed change	No proposed change

## Appendix 2

Polling District	Ward	Constituency	Current polling Place	Proposed changes to polling district boundary	Proposed changes to polling place
KC	Whitton	CSNI	Castle Hill UR Church, Dryden Road	No proposed change	<b>Proposed change: for streets within the new Henley Gate development in this polling district to be allocated a new polling place at the community centre which is currently under development, as and when electorate growth requires it.</b>
LA	Whitehouse	CSNI	Whitehouse Baptist Church, Waterford Road	No proposed change	No proposed change
LB	Whitehouse	CSNI	24th Ipswich Scout HQ, Bramford Road	No proposed change	No proposed change
LC	Whitehouse	CSNI	Sikh Temple, Bramford Road	No proposed change	No proposed change
LD	Whitehouse	CSNI	Whitehouse Baptist Church, Waterford Road	No proposed change	No proposed change
LE	Whitehouse	CSNI	24th Ipswich Scout HQ, Bramford Road	No proposed change	No proposed change
MA	Sprites	Ipswich	Greenfinch Church, Greenfinch Avenue	No proposed change	No proposed change
MB	Sprites	Ipswich	The Belstead Arms, Radcliffe Drive	No proposed change	No proposed change
MC	Sprites	Ipswich	St Francis Church Hall, Hawthorn Drive	No proposed change	No proposed change

## Appendix 2

Polling District	Ward	Constituency	Current polling Place	Proposed changes to polling district boundary	Proposed changes to polling place
MD	Sprites	Ipswich	St Francis Church Hall, Hawthorn Drive	No proposed change	No proposed change
NA	Bridge	Ipswich	St Mary Stoke Church Hall, 54 Stoke Street	No proposed change	No proposed change
NB	Bridge	Ipswich	St Mary Stoke Church Hall, 54 Stoke Street	No proposed change	No proposed change
NC	Bridge	Ipswich	Hillside Children's Centre, Maidenhall Approach	No proposed change	No proposed change
ND	Bridge	Ipswich	Stoke Green Baptist Church	No proposed change	No proposed change
OA	Castle Hill	CSNI	Castle Hill Community Centre, Highfield Rd	No proposed change	No proposed change
OB	Castle Hill	CSNI	Ascension Hall, Larchcroft Road	No proposed change	No proposed change
OC	Castle Hill	CSNI	Broomhill Library, Sherrington Road	No proposed change	No proposed change
OD	Castle Hill	CSNI	Ascension Hall, Larchcroft Road	No proposed change	No proposed change
PA	Gipping	Ipswich	The Community Centre, Dickens Road	No proposed change	No proposed change
PB	Gipping	Ipswich	St Marks Church Hall, Hawthorn Drive	No proposed change	No proposed change
PC	Gipping	Ipswich	Gippeswyk Hall, Gippeswyk Avenue	No proposed change	No proposed change
PD	Gipping	Ipswich	St Marks Church Hall, Hawthorn Drive	No proposed change	No proposed change
PE	Gipping	Ipswich	Burlington Baptist Church, London Road	No proposed change	No proposed change

## Review of Polling District and Polling Places 2023-25

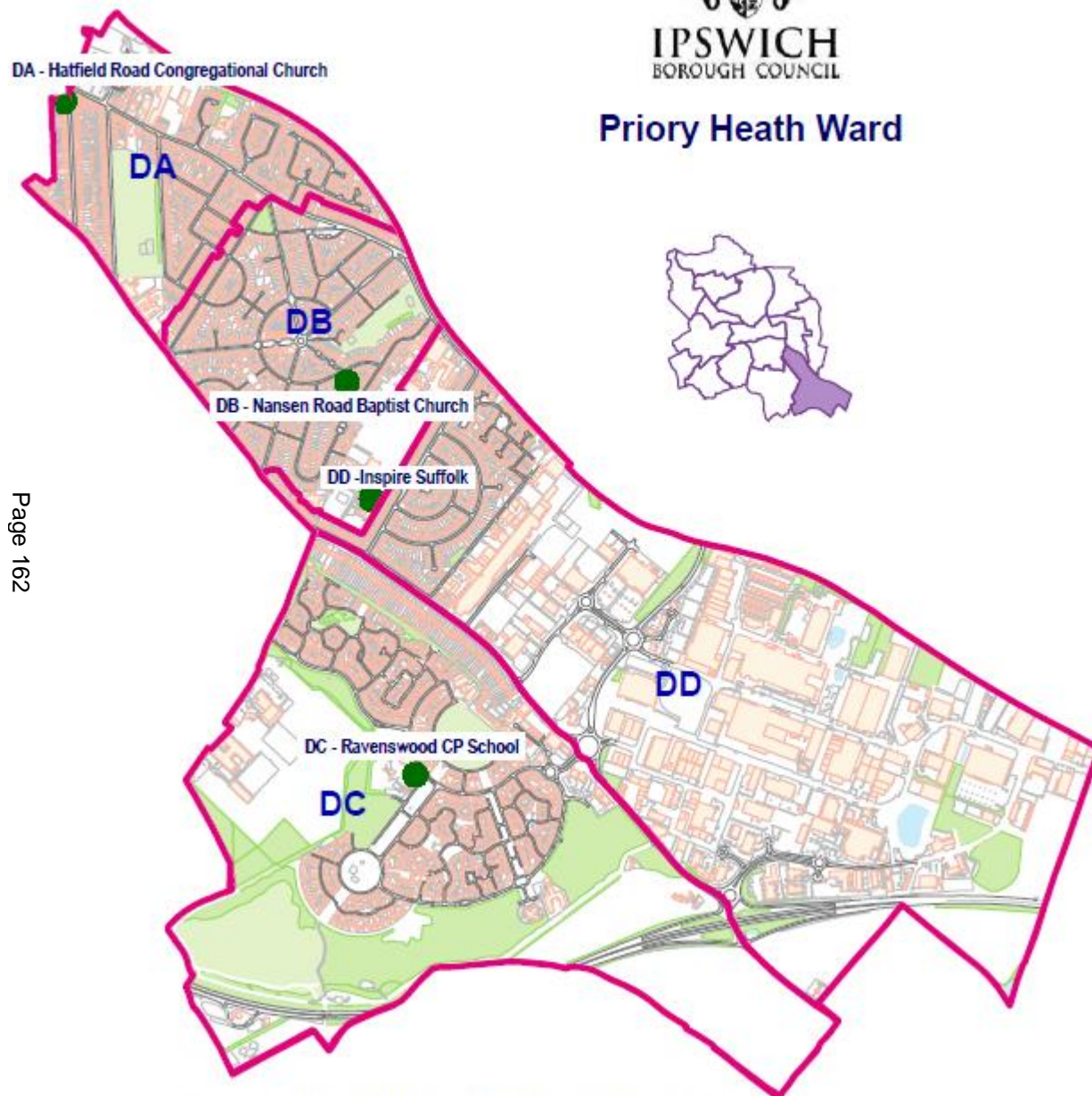
### Schedule of Changes Proposed in the Consultation

No.	Ward	Polling District(s)	Issue	Proposed Change	Impact
1	Priory Heath	DC	The Ravenswood estate is a distinct geographical entity. The total number of Ravenswood electors allocated to this polling station has almost exceeded the Electoral Commission's recommended maximum quantity of 2,500, due to residential building development within the polling district.	For the existing polling place (the Community Room in Ravenswood Primary School) to become a "double" polling place i.e. for 2 separate polling stations to operate from within the same room. To plan for opening this second polling station as and when required within the next five years, as the population of Ravenswood increases.	This will ease the pressure on the existing single polling station by reducing the number of allocated electors, in turn reducing the potential for long queues when turnout is high for certain types of elections e.g. UK Parliamentary general elections. This will retain the polling place on the Ravenswood estate without electors having to leave the estate to vote.
2	Stoke Park	IA	Due to no public or community buildings existing within this polling district, there is no permanent building to use as a polling place. This has resulted in a temporary mobile unit with limited facilities for electors being used. The Returning Officer is committed to moving away from using inadequate and costly mobile units.	<p>Option 1 – remain with current mobile unit, but consider placing it in a more accessible location within the polling district.</p> <p>Option 2 – to use the existing polling place in polling district IB (Willows Childrens Centre) which would become a "triple" polling place. It already has two polling stations, for polling districts IB and ID respectively.</p>	<p>Option 1 – little improvement to the current facilities or costs.</p> <p>Option 2 - improved and permanent facilities for the elector in an established polling place. A slightly further distance for electors to walk / travel to this proposed venue – up to 0.8 miles.</p>
3	Whitton	KA & KC	To accommodate the growth of the Henley Gate phase of the new northern suburb development, new electors which are currently being allocated to the existing polling places in KA or KC will eventually need a new polling place closer to their property. The quantity of electors will significantly increase too.	To use the community centre currently being built on the development, once it becomes available within the next five years, as the allocated polling place for Henley Gate electors.	This will ease the pressure on the existing polling places and will be more accessible for electors living within the development.



IPSWICH  
BOROUGH COUNCIL

## Priory Heath Ward







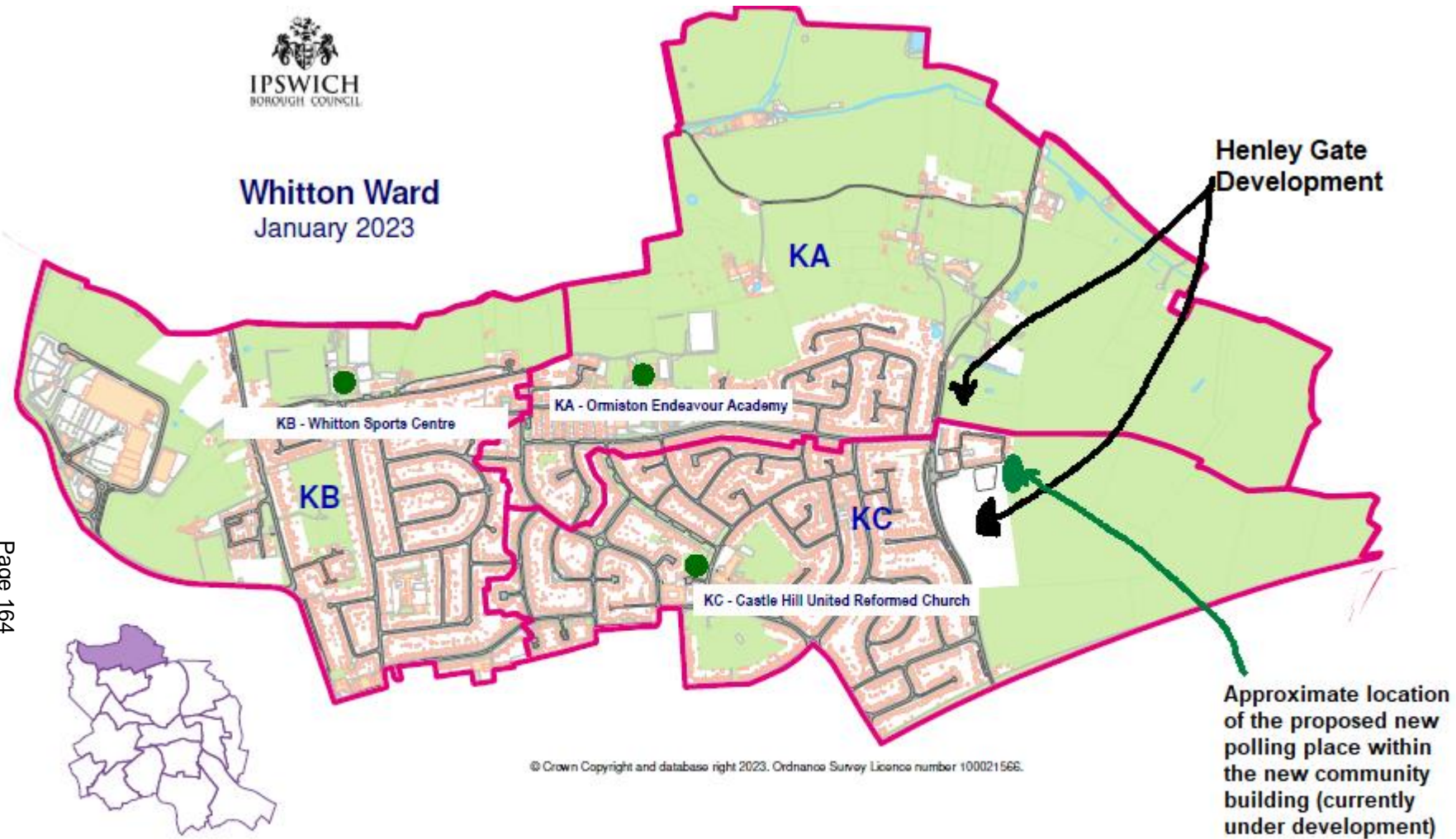
## Stoke Park Ward

January 2023

Page 163



**Whitton Ward**  
January 2023



## Part E – Comments from stakeholders during consultation

Comment	Name/organisation	Response by (D)RO
You are gathering information re voting accessibility for people with mobility issues. I have mobility issues and use a postal vote. I have encouraged my 90 year old mum to do the same. It's easier than trying to attend polling stations. I just wish putting papers into different envelopes wasn't quite so complicated.	Madeline Johnson - Individual	<i>Postal voting can be a preferred method of voting for some people unable to access a polling station easily. Postal voting as a method of voting is beyond the scope of this review.</i>
There is a long standing problem in that large print voting forms are still not available to aid those with a visual impairment. The current offering is to provide candidate information in large print and then a cardboard overlay to the normal sized voting form so that Visually Impaired folk that can read the large print information can index down the voting form using the template to place their cross. That is, if your particular polling station has such readily to hand. However if you are in receipt of a postal vote, which a great many disabled are, you have to chase down the large print information and a template for yourself – experience gained over a number of years representing those with a visual impairment who wish to exercise their voting right personally and privately would show this is not easy at all. Often all we receive when raising the	Stephen Hodgkiss – Suffolk Sight	<i>All Ipswich polling stations provide handheld large print ballot paper templates and a tactile voting device to assist with marking the ballot paper. Polling station staff are trained to offer assistance when requested, for example by reading out candidate names in order from a ballot paper. Visually impaired voters are welcome to take their own device or a companion to assist if preferred. If there are any other reasonable adjustments that can be made to the polling station to assist a visually impaired voter, then we would encourage the voter to contact the elections office well in advance of an election to discuss. Although postal voting is beyond the scope of this review, assistance can be given to postal voters on an individual basis. Again, we would encourage any voter with a physical or sensory disability to contact the elections office to discuss how we can best assist.</i>

<p>issue with election officials and officers is a statement that “this is the process, we cannot change anything and if you cannot partake via this means then perhaps someone else can assist you completing the form”! The current situation needs to be modified to ensure those with any form of disability including a visual impairment have equal access and their privacy respected when taking part in the electoral process.</p>		
<p>Thank you for the information regarding the council’s review of polling district and polling places. I note from your website that you are consulting with the electorate and other stakeholders. The input from residents and local stakeholders will bring the insight needed to inform the final recommendations for Ipswich Council to consider and I therefore do not believe that a response as the Suffolk Police Area Returning Officer is necessary. Thank you for sharing the information and providing the opportunity to respond.</p>	<p>Ian Gallin – Police Area Returning Officer for Suffolk</p>	<p><i>No recommendations.</i></p>
<p>Of the 69 IBC polling stations, Whitton KC is the largest and Whitton KB the seventh largest. There is a clear need to rearrange the polling boundaries to get both of these catchment areas to less than 2,000 electors to be manageable. I believe that</p>	<p>Tony Gould – Borough Councillor for Whitton Ward</p>	<p><i>Whitton. A fourth polling district is required in Whitton to take account of the new northern suburb development. The polling station for this is likely to be the new community building once it has been developed in the near future. We are committed to not using costly mobile units,</i></p>

the answer lies in the need to make future provision for IGS. I would vote for a large one-day portakabin on Oxlip Boulevard, or maybe in the car park for May 2024. This would help reduce KC and KB, the reallocated voters forming KD to become a permanent polling station in due course. KD might migrate further East as IGS is developed.		<i>with inadequate facilities for both voters and staff, unless that is the only option.</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We have 3 stations that serve a large number of voters.</li> <li>• Accessibility is reasonable at all 3 (I've had no reps from residents since 2018 re accessibility.)</li> <li>• The eventual opening of a 4<sup>th</sup> station at Henley Gate will be vital - will that be for 2024?</li> <li>• There probably isn't another suitable location in Whitton for a 4<sup>th</sup> one.</li> <li>• Assume that boundary changes/ impact of IGS will eventually mean a rethink necessary.</li> <li>• I'm glad that The Beeches CP School is no longer used because the accessibility is not very good and there is negative impact on the running of the school.</li> </ul>	Christine Shaw – Borough Councillor for Whitton Ward	<p><i>Whitton.</i></p> <p><i>A fourth polling district is required in Whitton to take account of the new northern suburb development. The polling station for this is likely to be the new community building once it has been developed in the near future (this will not be ready for the May 2024 elections.)</i></p> <p><i>We are committed to not using schools where possible (to avoid disruption for the school) providing there is an alternative venue offering adequate facilities within the correct polling district.</i></p>
St John's Church Cowper Street - I think the polling station at St John's on Cowper Street works well and I would like to see it retained.	Christine Hayward - Voter	<i>This venue has good facilities and is placed in a convenient location for voters. We hope to retain this venue, subject to it being available to hire for future elections.</i>

St John's Church Cowper Street - Good facilities- very friendly and welcoming	Beverley Roddie - Voter	<i>This venue has good facilities and is placed in a convenient location for voters. We hope to retain this venue, subject to it being available to hire for future elections.</i>
Priory Heath - Ravenswood Primary School is a great location.	Jacqueline Robson - Voter	<i>This venue has good facilities and is placed in a convenient location for voters. We hope to retain this venue, subject to availability for future elections.</i>
The Hope Centre - This is an unsuitable polling station as it has no parking so I cannot drop in on my way home from work. I do not understand why it changed. The St John Ambulance building off Blanche Street/Cemetery Road was perfect as it had plenty of parking. I could n up in there and be done in 5 minutes and always voted.	Nicola Rouse - Voter	<i>Car parking is not a requirement to have for polling station venues and it can be difficult to find suitable venues with parking in a busy town centre. The change from St John Ambulance building in Blanche Street was due to the availability to hire the venue from the private owner. The Hope Centre offers good voting facilities, but no car parking (it is a very short distance to the public car park on Cobden Place.) We will continue to look for an equally suitable venue, in the correct polling district location, which also has car parking, but do not think such a venue available for hire exists currently.</i>
Bramford Road 24 <sup>th</sup> Scout Hall - This hall is in a difficult geographical place. There is limited parking for voters generally and for the disabled who have no choice but to drive and it is also situated at a very busy junction. Last time I voted there vehicles were queuing on the road to get in the car park as there is hardly any on street parking in that area.	Marion Ransby - Voter	<i>Car parking is not a requirement to have for polling station venues and it can be difficult to find suitable venues with parking in a busy town. For those voters who need to drive to the polling station due to a disability, we can trial reserving some parking spaces closest to the building for future elections.</i>



Stoke Park - Additional space or new space within the Willows Children Centre is likely to be needed in order to accommodate 3 polling stations.	Adam Keer – Presiding Officer	<i>The proposal would be to use an additional room within the centre, rather than squeeze all 3 polling stations into the existing room, subject to hiring availability.</i>
St Margaret's - As a voter in St Margaret's (and who happens to live opposite the Christchurch Park gates on Bolton Lane) I don't understand why my polling station isn't in the Reg Driver Centre as it used to be, but at a venue 5-6 mins walk away. It's only a mild inconvenience, but I don't understand it.	Stephen Anderson - Voter	<i>A voter living closer to another polling station and having to travel further to their allocated polling station is not ideal and we aim to avoid this where possible. Due to the boundaries of each polling district, there will always be some voters living much closer to their allocated polling station than other voters. The Reg Driver Centre has been trialled as a “double” polling place before, to accommodate the voters from two polling districts, but the feedback received was that it is too small for the high turnout of voters in St Margaret's ward. Should better alternatives become available we will consider these.</i>
Whitton - Henley Gate. Although I do not vote in this polling district, I live around the Whitton area and visit Castle Hill United Reformed Church on a weekly basis. I was unaware of the development of Henley Gate. I hope the plans are available for the public to read on the IBC website.	Becca Jackaman - Voter	<i>Not relevant to the polling district review.</i>
Cauldwell Hall Road church - Very accessible. Very clear voting instructions.	Maggie Dioley - Voter	<i>This venue has good facilities and is placed in a convenient location for voters. We hope to retain this venue, subject to it being available to hire for future elections.</i>
Ascension Hall, Larchcroft Road. This polling station is	Rachel - Voter	<i>This venue has good facilities and is placed in a convenient location for</i>

very well placed to serve the local area and there is not usually a wait for voting.		<i>voters. We hope to retain this venue, subject to it being available to hire for future elections.</i>
Westgate - There should be an option to vote online. It's insane that in 2023 this isn't available! It would encourage busy younger people to vote.	Lois Ransome - Voter	<i>Whilst it is noted that an online system may encourage young voters to take part, this is beyond the scope of the review. Online voting is currently not a voting option in the UK and this is a matter for central Government.</i>
Stoke Park - The turnout in IA polling district at local elections has been about 16% in the last 2 years. This is below the average for the town, i.e. in both 2022 and 2023, there were far more polling stations showing higher turnout compared to IA and those below. We believe IA polling station needs to be kept in the vicinity.	Edward Phillips – Borough Councillor for Bixley Ward	<i>There are no buildings to hire within the IA polling district. Previously a private sheltered housing complex allowed the hire of a communal room within its building, but this is no longer available. To keep the polling station within the IA polling district, a temporary mobile unit would need to be hired. Mobile units provide poor facilities for staff and voters and are extremely costly. Polling station IA will be considerably closer to all residential properties within polling district IA than the comparable distance for some other polling stations within the Borough. The turnout figures referred to occurred when the polling station was situated within the polling district (2022 - Vinnicombe Court, 2023 - Mobile Unit on Birkfield Drive) and so it is unlikely that lower than average turnout is caused by the location of the polling station.</i>
Ipswich parliamentary constituency should include all wards in Ipswich borough. None should be lumped in with other constituencies.	Jonathan Williamson - Voter	<i>Parliamentary constituencies are beyond the scope of this review which is specifically on polling districts.</i>