

Consultation Comments

Comments related to polling districts & polling stations		Response
1	On the boundary of JAJ and JBJ, I feel it would make more sense for Kingston Street and the entirety of Gwydir Street to be in JAJ	While this does look practical on the map, it would mean those electors are further away from their allocated polling station, and therefore not suitable at this time.
2	ABA is very large considering it will have a large population on the Marshalls site in coming years. Some boundaries seem very small (i.e. ADJ, BDC, EDK, GAB) but it doesn't make sense why.	Increases in residential development will be considered at a future review, which can take place at any time and does not need to wait for the statutory five-year period. Polling district boundaries must respect both city ward and county division boundaries, so where these diverge it can create small polling district 'pockets' which cannot be resolved until a review of those other boundaries take place.
3	Abbey esp. AAA cuts across buildings and roads	This cannot always be avoided.
4	After the change from Castle to Arbury, the McManus area (to the West of Histon Road) is quite far from the polling station at the Good Shepherd.	Unfortunately, there is no way to currently resolve this as there is no other suitable building that is closer. The comment will be retained for future review.
5	Eliminate EDK and merge it with EBK	This is being proposed in the review.
6	Adjust Roseford road so that both sides west of St Albans road are in the BAB catchment?	This move would alter the balance of electors between the BAB & BCB polling districts. However, it has highlighted an inconsistency in Roseford Road, and the decision has been taken to propose moving the smaller part of Roseford Road (no's 73 – 97 odds) from BAB into BCB. These voter's polling station is not affected.
7	In King's Hedges, the polling stations at Arbury Community Centre and Arbury Court Library are very close together	The location of a polling station cannot always be completely central to the polling district. While the location of a polling station is a consideration during a review, the location could change (due to venue availability) so should not be altered unnecessarily

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8	My only comment is that C3 church is the most comfortable polling station ever	Noted.
9	Nuns Way Pavilion, as it currently appears to be abandoned and unused - perhaps paving the way to make excuses for its removal?	This has been investigated for use as a polling station in the past, but the renovation of buildings is not within the remit of the Returning Officer. Your comments are noted.
10	I strongly dislike having to go into a religious building in order to vote (and always have; I am not alone in this view). The Sturton Street Howard Mallett Centre or the Mill Road Library would have been terrific, but oops, the County Council has tragically disposed of both of these (formerly City Council owned) community assets. The new PACT Community Centre at the old Depot site would work for some, but that is too far away for this hyperlocal area. The building at 18 Upper Gwydir St (a former shoe-repair factory-turned harpsichord workshop- turned dojo/library/workshop) that is currently the subject of a hotly contested planning application (to despicably turn it into a densely packed HMO) is a rare opportunity to acquire and build an excellent community facility. Why doesn't the City Council purchase that (compulsorily, if necessary) and create something truly valuable and lovely, that would also serve as a polling station	<p>The commenter currently votes at St. Matthew's Church Hall.</p> <p>The wish not to vote in a religious venue is understood. Unfortunately, there is currently no other alternative venue in the polling district. Religious buildings are often a focal point in a community and usually have suitable facilities for polling. Currently, the only option for voters not wishing to enter religious buildings is to offer a vote by post or proxy.</p>

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	for the whole community? I can always dream...	
11	I think some supermarkets (Tesco - Newmarket Rd) parking areas should be used for mobile van polling stations.	The comments are noted. The Returning Officer only uses mobile polling stations when no alternative building is available, due to the inflated cost of hire and the lack of good accessibility for disabled voters.
12	Meadows community centre	The Meadows has been used for a by-election and a high number of complaints were received regarding its location. It is also used as a polling station by South Cambridgeshire District Council, for residents on the Orchard Park Estate. We feel that also using the venue would cause further confusion for all voters.
13	Other polling venues suggested: a) new Buchan street community centre b) St Barnabas Church, Mill Road c) Petersfield Community Centre d) Mayfield Primary School	a) We will undertake to assess this for future use as polling station. b) As above. c) As above. d) The Returning Officer chooses not to use schools as polling stations, so as not to disrupt the timetables of educational establishments.
14	Information should be provided in multiple languages for voters for whom English isn't their spoken language.	Unfortunately, by law some election documents can only be produced in English or Welsh. We will undertake a review of which documents we can offer in other languages.
15	I think ensuring polling stations are located close to the areas they server will aid with voter turnout.	The comment is noted. While the Returning Officer does try to hire buildings central to the polling district area, this is not always possible.
16	In King's Hedges, the polling stations at Arbury Community Centre and Arbury Court Library are very close together.	This is unfortunate, but other venues have not previously been available to us. The comment is noted.

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Comments related to other boundaries, not within the scope of this review	Response
<p>A</p> <p>We cannot understand why we are in South Cambs when Trumpington is in Cambridge City. We live in a road much closer to the city centre than those who live at Clay Farm for example. We feel that this should be reviewed.</p>	<p>This is the boundary between Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council and is not within the remit of the current review.</p>
<p>B</p> <p>I have not understood how, in the previous election, that Cherry Hinton and Queen Ediths were assigned to be within the boundaries of South Cambridgeshire. I would have preferred more communications to explain some of the changes in the electoral boundaries, if possible.</p>	<p>The boundary for Parliamentary Constituencies is the responsibility of the Boundary Commission for England. More information on the most recent review in 2023, which confirmed the Cherry Hinton and Queen Edith's city wards would be part of the South Cambridgeshire constituency for Parliamentary elections, can be found at www.boundarycommissionforengland.independent.gov.uk/2023-review</p>
<p>C</p> <p>It is odd that a very small section of south Trumpington is not part of the council.</p>	<p>This is the boundary between Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council, and is not within the remit of the current review</p>
<p>D</p> <p>Silverwood Close and St Matthew's Gardens should OBVIOUSLY be in Petersfield and not in Abbey Ward (for historic, cultural and community reasons); Most of JCJ (Petersfield) should go back to Trumpington (same reasons).</p>	<p>The boundary between city wards is not within the remit of the current review. The comment will be retained for the next ward boundary review.</p>
<p>E</p> <p>The northwest side of Kings Hedges ward has 4 houses in a different ward.</p>	<p>This is the boundary between Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council and is not within the remit of the current review.</p>

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F	The 3 Coleridge polling districts for the city should be synchronous with which division they are in for the county	The comment is noted; however, the city and county electoral boundaries are not within the remit of this review.
G	Cambridge Place and St Paul's Walk, which were always in JB, have been added to HCJ. St Paul's Walk is a set of homes in a gated community between St Paul's Road and Cambridge Place. Access is on foot down an alleyway from Hills Rd and by car through a gate off Cambridge Place.	The boundary between city wards is not within the remit of the current review. The comment will be retained for the next ward boundary review.
H	I think we could increase turn out by polling on a weekend day and making it a celebratory event as they do in some other European countries.	The timing of polling day and what activity can take place outside a polling station is laid down in legislation and any changes are a matter for the Government.
I	Do not segregate the tiny part of south Trumpington - make it part of the city council	This is the boundary between Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council, and is not within the remit of the current review
J	Continuing with the McManus area, I still think that we would fit better geographically in Castle and would be much more convenient for voting too.	The boundary between city wards is not within the remit of the current review. The comment will be retained for the next ward boundary review.