

Polling District and Polling Place Review 2024



The Polling Review is based on the current arrangements from the previous Polling District and Polling Place Review that came into effect on 1 February 2024 for the Local Elections which took place in May 2024. The polling districts included in this review are those which have consequential amendments as a result of the Local Government Boundary Commission for England's (LGBCE) final recommendations for Gloucestershire County Council boundaries which will come into effect on the for the 1 May 2025 Gloucestershire County Council elections. The review made changes to parish and polling district boundaries for **Hamfallow** and **Randwick and Westrip** Parish Council electoral arrangements and as a result, Stroud District Council is required to undertake a review of the polling districts for these areas to ensure alignment with the polling district boundaries.

This consultation document outlines the Council's recommendations for change. Further information about the review can be found on our website [here](#).

The electorate used for this Review are based on the 1 October 2024 electoral register. It should be noted that the electorate includes postal voters who would not be entitled to vote in person at the polling station.

To view the final recommendations from the LGBCE, please click [here](#).

BERKELEY VALE						
Polling District	Polling District Reference	Current Polling Station	Polling station comments	Electorate	Proposed Polling Station	Proposed Polling District Reference
Hamfallow (Div 1)	BVE	Berkeley Town Hall , Salter Street, GL13 9DB	Berkeley Town Hall is currently a double station for two polling districts (BVB and BVE). Although this arrangement has worked well in the past, the electorate has increased over the years and comments were received in the two 2024 elections stating that the venue is too small to be a double station.	418	It is proposed that electors in BVE polling district vote at Canon Park Pavilion (no changes recommended for BVB electors who will continue to vote at Berkeley Town Hall)	BVE
Hamfallow (Div 2)	BVF	Sharpness Village Hall , Oldminster Road, GL13 9NA	Satisfactory	458	To remain as Sharpness Village Hall.	BVF

Stroud (Acting) Returning Officer Comments - Issues, Options and Reasons

The LGBCE as part of their final recommendations have made alterations to the parish of Hamfallow to create two parish wards. This is because Hamfallow Parish is now split across two county divisions and therefore the LGBCE are required to have due regard to Schedule 2 of the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 Act, and a parish divided between different divisions must be split into parish wards. It is therefore proposed that the boundary of the polling district BVE (Hamfallow, South Ward) and BVF (Hamfallow, North Ward) are amended to align with the new parish warding arrangements of Hamfallow. The changes include incorporating the triangle of land to the northeast and properties associated to the North of Slimbridge Lane (later Tyndale Road) at Priorswood Farm into BVF (Hamfallow, North Ward) and amending southern boundary line between BVE (Hamfallow, South Ward) and BVF (Hamfallow, North Ward) polling districts to follow more natural boundaries such as field lines. Consideration was given as to whether a new polling district could be created instead of aligning the boundaries, however it is not feasible to create a new polling district for the impacted area due to the electorate size, and there being no appropriate polling place within the area. It is therefore proposed to align the two polling district boundaries with the LGBCE's final recommendations and boundaries as it would better provide effective local government and community identity and cohesion.

We are also recommending that the names of the polling district names are amended to Hamfallow South Ward (BVE) and Hamfallow North Ward (BVF) to reflect the new parish warding name arrangements of the LGBCE.

Changes to polling district boundaries can be found on [Map A](#).

For information, the LGBCE have also recommended that the current Councillor allocation of 9 for the Parish Council is split between the two wards as follows:

- Hamfallow (North Ward) - 5 Councillors
- Hamfallow (South Ward) – 4 Councillors.

Finally, we are also proposing a change of polling station for the electors of BVE from Berkely Town Hall to Canon Park Pavilion. We are recommending this change as following the Local Government Elections in May and UK Parliamentary General Election in July 2024, where comments were received from polling station staff and polling station inspectors stating that the room for polling is not large enough for a double station. It is therefore proposed that Canon Park Pavilion is used for as a polling station for the electors of BVE (Hamfallow, South Ward) and the electors of BVB (Berkeley) remain at the Town Hall. We have previously used the Pavilion at the Local Elections in 2021 and received positive feedback on the premises which also has ample parking and good accessibility. This proposed polling station whilst not contained within the polling district of BVE itself is closer for electors than the current arrangement at the Town Hall and there are no alternative venues in the BVE polling district.

RANDWICK, WHITESHILL AND RUSCOMBE						
Polling District	Polling District Reference	Current Polling Station	Polling station comments	Electorate	Proposed Polling Station	Proposed Polling District Reference
Randwick (South East Ward)	RWRA	Randwick Scout Group HQ , Morehall, Cashes Green, GL5 4RY	Satisfactory	299	To remain as Randwick Scout Group HQ	RWRA
Randwick (Randwick Ward)	RWRB	Randwick Village Hall , Playing Field, Randwick, GL6 6JA	Satisfactory	496	To remain as Randwick Village Hall	RWRB

Stroud (Acting) Returning Officer Comments - Issues, Options and Reasons

The LGBCE as part of their final recommendations have made alterations to the parish boundary of RWRA Randwick, South East Ward (polling district RWRA) to incorporate the northern streets of Westrip along with the Townsend estate and Ash Lane properties which are currently contained in Randwick, Randwick Ward (polling district RWRB). The LGBCE reason for the change is to better reflect the ties of the community to be included within Rodborough County division as residents felt more connected to this county division during the LGBCE consultation rather than being included within the new Haresfield and Upton St Leonard county division. This amendment will also mean that all properties within the Westrip street will no longer be split between Randwick, South East Ward (RWRA) and Randwick, Randwick Ward (RWRB). It is therefore proposed that the boundaries of polling districts RWRA and RWRB are amended to align with the respective parish ward boundaries contained within the LGBCE final recommendations. Proposed amendments to the polling district boundaries can be found on [Map B](#).

For information, the LGBCE as part of their final recommendations have also recommended that the current Councillor allocation of 9 Councillors which is currently split as CE (Randwick, South West Ward) – 3, RWRA (Randwick, South East Ward) – 2 and RWRB (Randwick, Randwick Ward) – 4 is changed to:

- Randwick (South West Ward) - 3 Councillors
- Randwick (South East Ward) – 3 Councillors
- Randwick (Randwick Ward) – 3 Councillors