

RECOMMENDATIONS REPORT

INTRODUCTION

Local Authorities must comply with a number of legislative requirements regarding the location and accessibility of Polling Districts and Polling Places. The mandatory review process comprises a number of specified steps set out in Schedule A1 to the Representation of the People Act 1983, which include a public consultation.

The last review for Plymouth City Council was conducted in 2013. A full polling place and polling district review will now be conducted over the next 16 months.

The review will consider any representations from local residents and stakeholders in the city, including any issues regarding access to premises or facilities for persons with disabilities. Any elector can make their views known and the process for doing so will be publicised. In addition, the review will consider the impact of the next four years' worth of planned residential developments on existing electoral arrangements.

In encouraging views, it is of course the case that the availability of suitable polling places is the key determining factor in the makeup of polling districts. Therefore, in asking for comments, we will request that alternative proposals should include suggestions for polling station locations.

It is the Returning Officer's role to select the polling stations. It will be Full Council which will make the decisions on any proposed changes to polling districts or polling places. The final scheme for polling arrangements will be adopted by the Chief Executive in accordance with the Council's constitution.

The polling districts, polling places and polling stations finally decided on will be used for the May 2020 local and Police and Crime Commissioner elections.

Scope of the review

Plymouth is divided into 116 polling districts each associated with one of 114 polling stations (two of those polling stations are double). Polling districts, geographic subdivisions of each ward, as well as polling stations for each of those districts are within the scope of this review. The review is considering the continued suitability of the existing arrangements and, when necessary, will make proposals for:

- The creation or removal of districts,
- "Change" or "no change" to the boundaries between districts,
- "Change" or "no change" to the referencing of those districts,
- "Change" or "no change" to the polling stations within those districts.

Not in scope

City ward boundaries and parliamentary constituency boundaries are not in scope of this review. The legislation requires that ward boundaries are reviewed by the Electoral Commission, not by Local

Authorities themselves. We do not have a mandate to suggest alterations to the boundaries between the wards.

The review will not be able to consider comments regarding local authority boundaries, neighbouring parliamentary constituencies, the names of local authorities or other electoral areas within or bordering Plymouth City.

Glossary of terms

Polling District - A polling district is a geographical sub-division of an electoral area.

Polling Place - A polling place is the area in which the Returning Officer selects the polling station. In Plymouth, polling places represent the same area as the polling district to allow a greater degree of flexibility in deciding where a polling station should be located.

Polling Station - The polling station is the room or building where the poll takes place.

Accessing information

The report presents information for each ward of the city. These are presented in alphabetical order and are listed in a contents table on page 3.

In order to illustrate those recommendations for each ward, maps of the existing arrangements as well as maps of our proposed arrangements are available on our polling station page:

<https://www.plymouth.gov.uk/votingandelections/pollingdistrictreview2018>

In the polling district information tables provided for each ward, the word “Electorate” refers to the total number of registered voters in the district, as of August 2018.

In the polling station information tables provided for each ward, the expression “Polling Station Electorate” refers to the total number of registered voters in the district who have opted to attend a polling station to vote, as of August 2018. This figure excludes electors from the district who may have opted to vote by other means. This figure informs us of the maximum number of electors who may attend the polling station on polling day.

HONICKNOWLE WARD**Existing Polling Districts**

Polling district	Polling Station	Electorate ¹	Recommendations
DA	West Park Library	1,338	No change
DB	Honicknowle Youth & Community Centre	1,837	Change of boundaries with district DG
DC	Mobile Unit at Chaucer Way	1,343	No change
DD	Mobile Unit at Sedley Way	1,342	No change
DE	Ernesettle Community School	1,208	No change
DF	St. Aidan's Church Hall	2,020	No change
DG	Knowle Primary School	1,180	Change of boundaries with district DB

Existing Polling Stations

Polling district	Polling Station	Polling station electorate ²	Disabled Access	Recommendations
DA	West Park Library	1,132	Yes	Replacement
DB	Honicknowle Youth & Community Centre	1,562	Yes	No change
DC	Mobile Unit at Chaucer Way	1,100	Yes ³	No change
DD	Mobile Unit at Sedley Way	1,131	Yes ³	No change
DE	Ernesettle Community School	1,002	Yes	No change
DF	St. Aidan's Church Hall	1,649	Yes - ramped	No change
DG	Knowle Primary School	970	Yes	No change

¹ Total number of registered electors in the district.

² Number of registered electors in the district who have opted to vote at a polling station.

³ Although mobile polling stations are suitably equipped to enable access for all voters (ramps and handrails for disabled access) there are still ongoing concerns due to inherent characteristics of mobile units, such as their narrow entrance and limited internal area.

Recommendations**Districts DB and DG – Alterations to district boundaries**

In order to even out the electorate between the two districts, and to simplify access to a polling station, it is proposed that residents from the following streets will move from district DB to DG:

- Shaldon Crescent,
- Marldon Close,
- Modbury Close,
- Kenn Close,

- Haytor Close and
- Foxtor Close.

Those residents would now vote at Knowle Primary School instead of the Honicknowle Youth and Community Centre.

Districts DE and DF – Alterations to district boundaries

In order to even out the electorate between the two districts, and to simplify access to a polling station, it is proposed that residents from the following streets will move from district DF to DE:

- Redhill Close,
- Acklington Place,
- Yelverton Close,
- Culdrose Close and
- Perranporth Close.

Those residents would now vote at Ernesettle Community School instead of St Aidan's Church Hall.

West Park Library – Replacement of Polling Station

There is a plan to repurpose the use of West Park Library building in the next few years. As a replacement, this report proposes to move the polling station to St Francis Church on Little Dock Lane in the east of the district. St Francis Church is located 0.4 miles away from the current polling station. Although this proposed polling station is not central to the district, it is very accessible on foot and by public transport.

Mobile unit at Chaucer Way in district DC

This review investigates opportunities to remove mobile polling stations whenever circumstances allow. However, in this instance, no suitable alternatives were identified in the area. The review therefore does not recommend a change unless suitable alternative polling arrangements are put forward during the consultation.

Mobile unit at Sedley Way in district DD

This review investigates opportunities to remove mobile polling stations whenever circumstances allow. However, in this instance, no suitable alternatives were identified in the district.

In extreme circumstances, polling stations can be situated outside a polling district. An alternative location has been put forward on the boundary between this ward and Egguckland ward. The Manadon Sport and Community Hub, on the site of the former Ministry of Defence pitches on St Peter's Road is very close to the current mobile polling station. It is very accessible and visible to residents in this district. The Hub is in its final phase on construction and scheduled to be complete March 2019. Its suitability as a polling station will be investigated further after construction.

Summary of proposed new Polling Districts and Polling Stations

New Polling district	New Polling Station	Address	Estimated Electorate¹	Estimated Polling station electorate²
DA	St Francis of Assisi Church	Little Dock Lane, PL5 2LP	1,338	1,132
DB	Honicknowle Youth & Community Centre	Honicknowle Green, PL5 3PX	1,471	1,246
DC	Mobile Unit at Chaucer Way	Entrance to Masefield Gardens, PL5 3EF	1,343	1,100
DD	Manadon Sports and Community Hub	St Peters Road, PL5 3FD	1,342	1,131
DE	Ernesettle Community School	Biggin Hill, PL5 2RB	1442	1,179
DF	St. Aidans Church Hall	Ernesettle Green, PL5 2SS	1,783	1,467
DG	Knowle Primary School	Ringmore Way, PL5 3QG	1,542	1,276

¹ Total number of registered electors in the district.

² Number of registered electors in the district who have opted to vote at a polling station.